

## Minutes of Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017

The meeting was called to order by Julie Baxter at 1900.

### Attendance & Apologies

#### *In Attendance:*

Lesley McPhee	LMP	Headteacher
Maxine Shanks	MS	Depute Headteacher
Julie Baxter	JB	Chairperson
Catriona McLaughlan	CM	Treasurer
Frances McLaughlan	FM	Secretary
Jo Grant	JG	Parent Council Member
Lindsay Brolly	LB	Parent Council Member
Donna Fairclough	DF	Parent Council Member
Pamela Renton	PR	Parent Council Member
Karen McMillan	KM	Parent Council Member
Gillian Kilday	GK	Parent Council Member

#### *Apologies:*

Adelle Carroll	AC	Vice Chairperson
Sarah Singleton	SM	Provisions Secretary
Kate McLean	KM	Fundraising Committee

### Approval of Minutes

JB ran through the agenda and extended a warm welcome to everyone in attendance. The minutes from the previous meeting (7<sup>th</sup> March 2017) were approved and will subsequently be published on the school website.

### Matters arising which are not otherwise on the agenda

None.

## Treasurer's Financial Update

Easter Discos: A profit of £528.00 was made over the two nights. £720.00 was brought in from ticket sales and £192.00 was spent on provisions.

£820.00 has recently been deposited into the bank account, following this (£820 also include money returned by Provisions Secretary, SS).

Current bank balance: £4200.55.

Nothing due to come off. although money will be required to pay for P7 leavers' hoodies and decorations for ceilidh disco.

## Headteacher's Report

### *1. Titanic Trip*

The Titanic has been a mini-topic for P5s, from which they have had great enjoyment. The children asked if they could visit the Titanic Exhibition in Belfast and this was looked into to determine if it was possible. A company that manages school trips to this exhibition was found and arrangements have been made.

We leave from the school on the morning of Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. The group will then travel by boat from Cairnryan to Belfast to attend the exhibition and return late on Friday evening/early hours of Saturday morning. Cost is £40 per child. A meal will be provided for children on the return journey, courtesy of the school. Pupil equity fund will be used, where necessary.

This trip has reinforced the aim that if children come up with ideas, relevant to what they are learning in school, the school will try to facilitate this, where possible. Teachers have free-reign to go on trips that are linked to the curriculum as long as these are viable.

The real issue facing the school regarding the viability of many trips is the transport costs, with buses being very expensive to hire. This not only affects trips but other activities, such as swimming, which has recently been removed from the curriculum due to the efficiency savings that have been put in place.

LMP highlighted that the loss of swimming puts more strain on the gym hall, which already struggles to accommodate the number of classes who need it for this. Other options may need to be investigated in order to determine if

swimming can continue in some way, possibly funded via the school if feasible. However, this would have to be considered on a year by year basis.

It again reinforces the need for a bigger or additional gym hall within the school.

## ***2. Clyde in the Classroom***

The school won an award for the great work carried out by teachers and children on this project. Representatives from the school attended the "Excellence Awards" and were very proud to accept the award on behalf of the school. The school has also secured funding to allow this to be a yearly project for P5s.

Following the success of this the Clyde River Foundation have asked the school to help with another project, which will now see P3s look after / grow eels. Eels are critically endangered with the eel population having decreased by 95% in recent years. They will be arriving on 15<sup>th</sup> May. The eels will be less work than the Clyde in the Classroom trout and will be released in Kilsyth. It is hoped that this will also become a yearly project for P3s.

The school will also help the Clyde River Foundation to develop an education pack that can be used by other schools.

## ***3. Cooking Kitchen and Food for Thought Grant***

The school met with Lorna Aitken (Education Scotland Development Officer) and showed her the new kitchen. A grant of £3,000.00 is available and the school can apply for this to purchase equipment etc. for the kitchen.

The teachers have been making good use of the kitchen to learn some more skills, including food health. This forms part of their CPD (Continuous Professional Development).

The school is developing a pathway for a cooking & nutrition programme from nursery to P7.

Next year, P6 will launch a Community Café. They will develop the menu, source / buy the products and the wider community will be invited to come along. This helps the children to develop and improve a range of skills relevant to life and work.

The kitchen may also facilitate *Make, Move & Munch*; a project to provide a family learning opportunity, whereby you cook together, do activities while the food is cooking, then eat together.

#### ***4. Uniform***

Following our change in uniform supplier and addition of a tartan option, the new uniform items will be launched during the P1 induction event on 31<sup>st</sup> May where a mini fashion show will take place.

The new school tartan, which was designed by pupils, is currently being woven. We are the only non-fee paying school in Britain to have our own tartan.

All clothing, in various sizes, will be available in the school for parents and carers to browse prior to purchasing online, or via the Scotcrest shop in Airdrie.

#### ***5. Pupil Equity Fund***

Currently waiting on North Lanarkshire Council to get back to us regarding the Pupil Equity Fund.

The school has been nominated by Active Schools for the school that has made most improvement. Mr. Miller has been key to our achievements in this area.

#### ***6. School Improvement Report Update***

The School Improvement Plan is well under-way. Priority One- (Writing and grammar) are the areas that have been taken forward primarily with Miss Mercer co-ordinating the improvement group. Priority Two- Maths (Problem Solving & application) has been taken forward with Miss Cameron leading developments with the group. The school is looking to implement "Big Maths", which has proven to be very successful in Falkirk, and "Catch Up Maths" (Glasgow). These will also be rolled out in August after training has been given to staff. Priority Three: Health & Wellbeing has been led by Mr Miller/Miss Duddy as part of the healthy School's pilot. We have raised engagement with active schools/ NLC "I Can Cook"/ Sexual Health and Relationships. We are currently working on our report and evaluating with pupils through learning communities engaging in HGIOS 4 challenge questions.

The New Improvement Plan will be rolled out in August 2017.

The children have also been consulted to help develop the Improvement Plan. Children at different levels have been working together, carrying out self-evaluation and answering questions about the school.

Staff also attended the NL Learning Festival during the in-service on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May. This focused on Behaviour and Partnership Working.

### ***7. Health & Well-being***

During the June in-service day, staff will be looking at "Relax Kids". This focuses on improving the mental health of children through various techniques; e.g. mindfulness, yoga etc.

School part of the "Beat the Street" initiative, which encourages children, and adults, to walk, cycle etc. around their local area.

## **Items of Business**

### ***1. Nursery Parent Group***

MS and JB met with the Nursery Parent Group. They discussed topics such as insurance requirements, how the Parent Council can help and that the Nursery Parent Group should have the same constitution and ethos as the Parent Council.

Adeeba Ahmad (AA) has been selected to represent the nursery parents. However, this Parent Council meeting was too short notice for her to attend.

The Parent Council needs to provide a calendar of its meetings and events to the Nursery Parent Group and AA should be copied in on any future Parent Council minutes.

### ***2. Disco Debrief and Future Planning***

This will be discussed in more detail at the next Parent Council meeting.

However, the following points were made:

- Discos need more structure and behaviour of some children needs to be improved.
- The Parent Council need support from the school to manage children with additional needs.
- Perhaps only one disco per year; e.g. Hallow'een with other children's events taking place throughout the year; e.g. movie night.
- Christmas fête, led by school with Parent Council donating money for craft materials and volunteering for tea/coffee stall?
- Summer fête / Beach party alternating each year?
- Review of parent helpers.

MS to be given provisional dates for meetings and events. New ideas required for future fund-raising.

### ***3. Anti-bullying Policy Review***

Clarifications provided on one or two aspects. Slight re-wording required.

Once this policy has been refreshed it will be made into a leaflet and put in the reception. The leaflet will highlight the key points.

(Note: Rookie Rockstars will be coming back into the school in June with their anti-bullying message)

### ***4. Vision and Values Statement***

Following review, it was agreed that no amendments were necessary.

### ***5. Uniform Update***

See section 4 of Headteacher's Report.

### ***6. Official Complaint Raised***

JB informed the Parent Council that she has raised an official complaint with David Craig regarding the unprofessional manner of the school's janitor towards LMP. This was made particularly evident during the last Parent Council meeting where discussions were interrupted so that LMP could be questioned on the let for Parent Council meetings.

Many parents have also complained to the school regarding having been made to feel unwelcome and a burden; for example, when arriving to help at Parent Council events.

David Craig informed JB that this is a very serious matter and that he would get back to her on this issue in due course. JB will report back to the Parent Council when she has any further information.

### ***7. P7 Leavers Assembly and Ceilidh***

White hoodies to be donated by Parent Council. Decision was taken to keep colour the same as last year so there can be no dispute of colour going forward. The colour of the hoodies was given considerable consideration when these were first gifted to P7s in 2016.

The hoodies will show the year "17" with full names of the children. A proof has been received. Cos of each top is £6.49 and a total of 57 have been ordered.

The Leavers' Ceilidh will take place on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June and the assembly will take place on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June.

CM to book Mr Amos for the ceilidh. Parent Council to fund decorations and catering. JB to ask ex-pupil, Ian McDonald, to play the bagpipes as he did this last year.

### **Correspondence**

Information to be provided to Nursery Parent Group, including Constitution & Ethos. AGM slide, which includes Acceptable Social Media Use, to also be provided,

### **Any Other Business**

#### ***Parental Questions***

##### ***1. P7 High School Visit***

It has been asked why there is no transport provided for children attending Greenfaulds High School for their transition visits on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> and Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. There are two reasons for this; firstly bus hire is extremely expensive (the high school has funded this in the past but this has now been stopped); secondly these visits are meant to, as close as possible, replicate a normal school day and, as such, pupils are expected to make their own travel arrangements.

##### ***2. Quids In Spending Proposals***

Following the success of Quids In, it has been proposed that the children visit the WW2 museum. A visit to the Showcase Cinema is also being looked into as a possible treat.

##### ***3. Summer Fête 2018***

CM has learned that the Parent Council can apply for a community grant (up to £1,000.00). CM to liaise with LMP to take this forward. This application can be submitted after the new school year has started in August, Maureen Fife is the contact for this.

**Next meeting - Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 7pm.**