



Knowetop Primary Parent Council

Thursday 1st November 2018



1. Welcome

Apologies: L. Hutchison, T. Maine, G. McBride, A. McLeod, L. McCabe, C. Mosley, J. Nicholls, A. Prentice, C. Rae

In Attendance: S. Bartynek, L. Downey, S. Elliott, G. McFadyen, C-A. McGinty, E. Mitchell, L. Mitchell, J. Muir, G. Murray, L. Pettigrew, P. Smith

2. Parent council training event

On behalf of Alison Prentice, Pamela Smith shared details of the Parent Council Essentials training course on Tuesday 13th November from 18.30 to 20.30. The course is offered by CONNECT and aims to provide advice for new and experienced Parent Council members. It is being held at the Muinicipal Buildings at Kildonan Street. No-one present was able to attend.

3. Playground update

Gordon Murray updated members on the regeneration of the playground plans being produced by a working party of pupils, staff and volunteers. One House Captain approached Councillor Magowan at a local event and she has become involved through her role as a grandparent.

The children's wish list for the playground includes:

- Football / Basketball equipment – This has been considered for the area where the Muddy Mound currently sits and would involve clearing this area before goals / hoops placed. This has been costed at around £9,000.
- Stage with outdoor speaker – This would involve covering the current sandpit and installing an outdoor speak system. This has been costed at around £300.
- Replacement train – A wooden train with two carriages for children to sit in has been costed through Restorative Justice at around £550 for the materials. This would replace the current train.
- Reading area – the children would like better outdoor seating areas and this has yet to costed.

- Trim trail – another request from the pupils that is in the planning stage and still to be costed fully.

G.M. updated members that some of the railings have been painted with money from the Parent Council by the Restorative Justice team at the weekend. This costed around £90 for materials and another coat of paint is to be done in due course. There is a lottery grant application completed but it has yet to be submitted due to timings for the funds to be used.

G.M. also informed members over some of the Health and Safety concerns that may impact the progress of the regeneration. One is the quality of the playground surface at present and that it requires resurfacing. There are a number of holes and uneven areas which have been highlighted to NLC as are not safe, particularly for our Visually Impaired pupils. The poor surface may be as a result of the use of the playground for parking by Motherwell football club on match days as the surface at present is suitable for footfall and not vehicles. Resurfacing of the playground is required to a higher standard than at present. The second issue is that access to the playground continues to be very open out-with school hours and concerns over vandalism continue. Members discussed requests for CCTV and the possible cost implications.

Parents suggested that the parent council write to NLC to highlight concerns regarding the playground and Laura Pettigrew volunteered to draft.

It was agreed that all monies raised from fundraisers this year would contribute to the playground and that the money needed to replace the train at the front of the school be released from the Parent Council funds.

4. Christmas card fundraiser update

Lynn Downey explained that the 1st order which includes orders submitted before the October break has arrived and is in the process of being checked. It will be distributed to classes next week to be sent home. Gail McFadyen and Emma Mitchell to come into school next week to organise and distribute to classes.

The second order of orders is yet to be submitted as the company closed the ordering facilities until Nov. It should be submitted over the next week with orders being received soon after.

5. Parent social event update

Due to a lack of numbers the October date for the Parent Quiz night has been postponed. The new date is Friday 1st March EM reported that the Quiz master may not be able to attend but is happy to write a quiz for us. It was noted that Alison

Prentice may be able to host if required as she has done so on previous occasions and Carol-Anne McGinty offered also.

It was agreed that, in January, posts would be put onto the Knowetop Parent Council facebook page and Pamela Smith would update the website, app and send home a flyer. EM spoke of everyone spreading the word at the gate as this would be a good opportunity for parents to meet others at the school.

6. Disco format

PS spoke of some of the problems with disco tickets – lack of helpers, lost tickets etc. which has led members of the parent council to consider changes to the current disco format. It was agreed that discos will no longer be ticketed. The cost of entry will be £1.00 and payable at the door, and children will be given a water or juice as part of their entry fee. Crisps will be available at the tuck shop along with the usual sweets, candy floss and led toys but no longer included in the ticket price. Helpers will be on desks inside the open area to sign children in, no adults will require entry to the school and a helper will be outside assisting adults in the queue with any questions or queries. Both discos will now run for 1 hour – P1-3 6.30pm – 7.30pm and P4-7 7.45pm – 8.45pm. There was a discussion of whether to include some party games, particularly at the P1-3 disco but no decision was reached.

PS to create a flyer to send home with children before the Valentines disco and a message will be posted on the school website, twitter and app informing parents of the changes. The issue of requests for helpers being made on the Knowetop Parent Council facebook page only was raised and it was agreed that requests should also be made on the app and via the email address as not everyone is on facebook.

LD reported that the Hallowe'en disco has made roughly around £800 and she is waiting for some receipts before confirming the final total raised.

7. Christmas fayre

PS requested on behalf of Amanda McLeod names of parent council members who were willing to create a working party to run the Christmas fayre. AMc will contact these members to organise a meeting next week to begin preparations. It was agreed that the format from last year worked well and this year would run in a similar vein. It was agreed that the working party would decide the details of the fayre and put out information on the Knowetop Parent Council facebook page, app, website and twitter.

8. Headteacher update

Very little has changed regarding budget, staffing and school staffing since our meeting on 6th September 2018.

Budget –

Sufficient budget remains to purchase necessary materials for class use this academic/financial year. The financial year ends at the end of March 2019 and so we have 5 months left to cover. Some of last year's carry forward will be used to fund work on and purchase resources to support our School Improvement Priorities (Developing the Young Workforce, Listening and Talking and Writing). This will ensure that pupils across all stages benefit in some way from the use of this money to improve learning and experiential outcomes. Supply days will also be paid for to allow individual Teacher/Head Teacher progress meetings to take place.

Staffing –

Staffing remains stable, with the exception of short-term absences across the majority of areas within the school.

School Fabric –

The Pupil Council has linked with Restorative Justice and our local Councillor to begin researching costs for refurbishing our playground. Mr Murray is overseeing this process. To date initial painting of handrails has been undertaken and some price quotes have been received for items suggested by pupils.

This coming Saturday NLC will be updating the school server to improve connectivity.

9. A.O.C.B.

- The issue of the locks in the boys' toilets was raised. GM informed those present that the boys' toilets are supervised due to recent issues which have arisen there. He will look into the situation with the locks.
- Julie-Ann Muir reported that NLC have reversed their decision to cease the P5 swimming lessons. It is not yet known how this will impact the current P5 children.
- School football team – at present there is no-one to coach the football team. The plan is for a coach from MFC to train the first team and for Mrs McCallum to train the second / girls team. It was noted that Motherwell FC run an after-school club which collects from the school every day at 3pm costing around £5. Children can be signed up via the website: www.motherwellfcct.co.uk