



## Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023

7-8pm - Teams

**Apologies;** Andrew Doherty, Pamela Yule

**Present;** Fiona MacKenzie (HT), Susan Etheridge, Sarah Barry (chair), Catherine Macklon (vice chair), Penny Canning (treasurer), Alison Renfrew (secretary), Hazel Munton (uniform crew), Fiona McKenzie (parent), Nicola Drummond (parent).

### 1. Minutes from prev meeting 10 nov 22

Items to be actioned from prev meeting; button batteries, lollipops – information sent home via parent pay.

Fencing; council have been to inspect damaged areas and repairs in process

### 2. Head teacher update

i) Successful trial of family target meetings from December. Positive feedback and well received. Some comment on time – waiting to be spoken to etc. Will be taken on board for future meetings.

There will still be parent's night and reports between now and end of session and a wider, school based review of the annual reporting will be undertaken for session 23/24.

ii) Invite to all new P1 families to visit their catchment school for walk round has been issued, This is a cluster wide date for all primary schools in our cluster, and in addition to formal transition events. Those applying for placement requests will be contact after the Easter break.

iii) First cluster moderation event was held earlier this evening and well attended. Writing was the prime focus. Allows equality of aims/objectives of all cluster primaries to be upheld.

iv) Termly additional support meetings continue – between 5 and 6 families attending. Mrs MacKenzie would like the parent council's support in communicating that that these sessions are not just for families where a formal diagnosis has been made but are open to all families in the school to allow access to enhanced support.

**Action: SB to post on the parents' facebook group to encourage attendance.**

v) Questionnaire about school improvement aims for session 23-24 being put together. Can the parent council please support this by communication via social media platforms when issued.

vi) Plea for reintroduction of parent helpers/volunteers to come into school. Broad areas of need – to read to small groups of children, help with the book box, work in the garden areas under development, provided additional adult volunteers on trips.

vii) Maths family learning session on 26<sup>th</sup> January - hosted by Mrs Ralston on teams from 5-6pm – invite has been sent out already – again can we promote of FB etc.

viii) Termly tracking meetings with all class teachers this month – every child's progress, aims, difficulties and strategies reviewed and appropriate plans put in place.

### **3. Chair update**

Sarah thanked all those involved in the Christmas Fayre and artwork – see newsletter 5 for totals.

i) **Co-op orchard fund** £128. Push on FB page amongst local families and also wider family.

Miss Etheridge has managed to source 4 fruit trees for free and working towards design/development of outdoor space.

Donation from Civic Society of £600 towards this gratefully received.

Nicola Drummond has been of great support in hopefully securing £5k from the Village investment fund/greenspace fund.

Nicola also mentioned the Green Spaces fund that is a legacy from COP26 and allows schools to harness the aims of the COP agreement and improve the green outdoor spaces around schools. This is for amounts between £1k-£5k.

Could be used to reinvigorate the raised beds as well and provide tools and kits for the children to use when out in the garden spaces.

**Action – SB to look at funding application process and discuss with SE.**

ii) **Bookfayre** has been arranged for Parents night in March.

iii) **Constitution** – while applying for grants, it came to light that we did not have a constitution. A draft one was put together and Sarah is attending a webinar on parent

council constitutions after this meeting. She will then aim to formally write a constitution and email to office bearers for approval/review as needed.

**Update – it has been discovered that the school held a Constitution for the PC. SB will update this, circulate for comments from the rest of the PC and wider parent forum, and aim to get it approved at the 2023 AGM.**

**Action: SB to update existing Constitution.**

**iv) Road safety;** Sarah attended the recent community council meeting where the local traffic survey was reviewed. Community councillors were keen to engage with the school about concerns and there is an aim to meet with some pupil reps also. – meeting to be arranged.

#### **4. Trim Trail update (Penny)**

Overlap discussion as above with Nicola Drummond. Total so far = £3887.58. Pending a successful grant of £5000 (hopeful for end March) this will take us to £8887.58. 3 companies have been approached for estimates – Trimtrail online approx. £14k, two more companies approached – one meeting this week re scope/plans and estimate.

Since this has been undertaken the stage area has become run down and put out of action so can we look at diverting some funds/incorporating some of this area to the wider plan?

If we can remove the old materials we could save approx. £2000. Unfortunately, we are limited in what we can recruit parents to help with re construction/repairs as all school playground resources need health/safety/risk assessed by Sportsafe. Sportsafe can however temporarily fix the trim trail until we have secured a replacement.

#### **5. Tannery project (Catherine)**

Catherine has tried to contact x 2 but ? has their winter shut down restricted communication. Catherine will pursue this and liase with school re date/classes etc.

#### **6. Chromebooks (Penny)**

Issue around availability of Chromebooks and desktop PCs was raised. Since the windows 10 upgrade all the school desktops were removed as they were not fit for purpose or secure to use.

The council do have an ICT budget however the focus is on portable tech – iPads, laptops, Chromebooks etc and not fixed point PCs.

There is an eagerness amongst the teaching staff for some desktops, but also for additional tools to enhance digital education and enhanced curriculum delivery. For example; apple pens, more Chromebooks, contribution to certain app costs.

It was agreed we would look at funding options as we approach the achievable end of the trim trail fundraising however the agreed goal at present is to replace the trim trail and enhance the outdoor space.

**AOCB** – Fiona McKenzie (P1 parent) asked re school meal menu and how often does this change. Mrs MacKenzie informed that this is not a school level area but centrally arranged. She will feedback to council re this.

**Date of next meeting;** Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 7-8pm MS Teams