



## Kilbarchan Primary School

### Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Time: 7-8pm

Location: TEAMS online meeting

**Present:** Jennifer Walsh (Headteacher), Stephen Johnstone (Chair), Celine Clark (Vice Chair), Fiona Smith (Treasurer), Emma Perrie (Secretary), Hazel Munton, Miss Montgomery, Clare Hunter, Alison Tourish

**Apologies:** None

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Stephen Johnstone (Chair) started the meeting by welcoming all the parents/carers and teachers in attendance.

#### 2. Head Teacher Update

Mrs Walsh gave the following updates:

##### **Mrs Robb**

The school are very happy that Mrs Robb is returning and will be phasing her return until after the Late May Bank holiday. Mrs Walsh and the school would like to thank Mrs Ralston for her work and support in Mrs Robb's absence.

##### **Scholastic Book Fayre**

From the sales made at the book fayre during the recent parents nights the school earned £288 in rewards that were used to choose a number of books for the school library. The pupils and Mrs Walsh would like to thank everyone who bought books and therefore helped towards the rewards earned. The Reading committee loved being able to choose books for each class from the fayre before it was returned to Scholastic.

### **Playground Artwork**

The previous parent council had secured funds for playground artwork to be purchased this school year. After all purchases were made there were funds left over for other outdoor play equipment. The school trialled the use of a Boombox for the lower school and it has been a great success. They have playlists with age-appropriate music and the children are loving it. The school has seen a reduction in issues at playtime and as a result they have invested in another boombox for the upper school.

### **Prom Committee**

All the P7s this term are part of the Prom committee. Their aim is to raise funds which will be used to pay for items they wish for their Prom in June. They are organising a Sponsored Litter Pick in the village - hopefully before the Lockerbie Manor trip at the end of May.

### **Mr Monk Retirement**

The Senior Facilities officer Mr Monk has decided to retire and the school would like to thank him for all his hard work during his time at Kilbarchan.

Mr Millen has been named as his replacement. Until Mr Millen begins in his new role the interim senior facilities officer will be Pauline Kelly.

### **Pupil Equity Funding**

Using the pupil equity fund the school is able to employ Mrs Brady as a Teaching assistant. Mrs Walsh sees no reason to change this arrangement and hopes that it can continue throughout the next school year, funding permitted.

### **Spring Disco**

Mrs Walsh would like to thank everyone involved in the spring disco. The children all had a wonderful time.

### **3. Treasurer Update**

Fiona Smith (Treasurer) gave an update on what funds have been raised and what has been spent since the last meeting.

- Starting balance was £2319.08
- School Disco – Think everyone can agree it was a huge success. Profit made was £419.90.
- Bookfayre – Parent council contributed £13.34 towards the reward funds for books for the children.
- Guide Hall - £40 used to book for the Quiz Night.
- Closing Balance- £2685.64
- Raffle for Football shirt and quiz night raised £407.10 which is pending deposit.

Funds are available to help the school with activities/equipment/trips etc. Mrs Walsh will review and feedback to Parent Council

Fiona has also enquired about an activity day from a company called "Silly Science". They can give interactive sessions for all classes throughout a day to give everyone opportunity to participate at no cost to parents. Parent Council are able to fund this using money raised. Action for Mrs Walsh to speak to Mrs Doyle and propose dates for possible visit.

Clare also highlighted her employer has a STEM scheme in place to provide boxes of experiments that can be used by teachers to deliver to the children. Emma has participated in this before, and it was very successful. Action to look into this further - possibly for next school year.

#### **Grants and funding –**

Fiona has investigated various grants available to the school. Some of which might have been given previously so needs to be checked.

Local School Nature Fund - possibly can be applied for 3 times – this needs to be confirmed

Coop funding – School have benefited before - can we reapply?

Bags for Help (Tesco scheme) – Miss Montgomery suggested this as we are a local school. Again would need to investigate further.

#### **4. Quiz Update**

Stephen gave an update on the recent Quiz and raffle organised by the parent council held in the village (Guide hall)

The event itself was poorly attended and the raffle ticket sales were also disappointing. Everyone that attended did have a great night and made the best of it. Our Thanks to those that did come and those that bought raffle tickets. Sales for both totalled over £400 which was good considering the low numbers.

Eventual winner of the signed football shirt was Allan McGlashan.

Stephen asked the parents on the call for feedback on possible causes of low turnout. Responses were social events without kids can cause babysitting issues, confusion over the time and place of event, better to have family events during the day. All will be taken on board when the Parent Council organise or plan any future events.

#### **5. Lillas Day Float**

The Parent Council has secured a float for the upcoming Lillas day celebrations on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June. The theme of our float is the Olympics – which we feel is current and also simple for kids to help decorate and also take part in on the day.

A letter is being drafted to parents to request names of any child who would like a place on the float and also any parents who are willing to help out decorate prior to the parade. This will be sent out Week Commencing 13<sup>th</sup> May. If numbers of requests are larger than the number that can be accommodated on the float then a Ballot will take place to fairly distribute places.

The school has offered for the children to help by creating artwork that can be used to decorate the float. Specifics of what is required will be communicated to school as soon as final plans are agreed.

## **6. Grounds**

Mrs Walsh received an email from a parent recently requesting if parts of the school grounds could be left “uncut” by the council when the grass cutting programme gets underway again this summer. Mrs Walsh requested feedback from the attendees on this subject.

Most of the attendees were not averse to this option and could see no adverse effect if some areas left to wildflowers/wildlife.

Mrs Walsh will follow up with the council regarding this point.

## **7. P7 Prom**

Miss Montgomery gave an update of where the Primary 7 pupils are with their planning of the prom. The children have been given complete responsibility for the plans and actions for the event. They have taken into account the budget, design, aesthetic of the night and have a theme of “Black and Gold”

Yearbooks are also under construction currently and portraits were being taken week of 6<sup>th</sup> May. Portraits with the P1 buddies were also being included this year and Mrs Walsh commented the buddy programme has been very successful this year.

Parent council have also offered to provide funding to the Primary 7s for either an activity independent to the Prom or fund something they want for the Prom itself. Miss Montgomery to cavass children for ideas on what they would want and then Parent council and school can then agree on contribution needed.

Parent Council are also investigating possible gifts that can be funded for the P7 leavers and presented at the valedictory service.

## **8. AOB**

Mrs Walsh confirmed that next year’s residential trip is already organised. Discussions took place with parents/carers and the now Primary 6 pupils to decide on venue. Options were Lockerbie Manor and Millport this year. Lockerbie Manor had the winning vote, and the stay is booked of May 2025. Mrs Walsh then updated that this gives the parents carers more time to fund the trip and the opportunity to pay in smaller instalments.

## **9. Date of next meeting – TBC**

### **Actions:**

1. Mrs Walsh to feedback on ways the parent council funds can be used for activities for the children
2. Mrs Walsh/Mrs Doyle to feedback on the Silly Science proposed dates
3. Parent council to Investigate further the Stem activities available form Thermofisher for next school year

4. Mrs Walsh/Miss Montgomery to feedback if school has been granted the Local School Nature Fund previously.
5. Parent Council to investigate the Co-op fundraising scheme and also the Tesco Bags for help scheme
6. Miss Montgomery to cavass opinion form Primary 7 pupils regarding what activity/part of Prom they would like parent council to contribute to and feedback to council.