



Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday 26 October 2023
7-8pm - Teams

Apologies; Catherine Macklon(vice chair), Gill Graham (local councillor), Andrew Doherty, Pamela Yule (fundraising)

Present; Jennifer Walsh (Acting HT), Sarah Barry (chair), Alison Renfrew (secretary), Penny Canning (treasurer), Hazel Munton (clothing crew), Julie Crawford, Kate Seaman, Emma Perrie, Robert Harvey, Fiona Smith, Alison Tourish, Suzanne Baxter, Celine Clark, Lousie McMurray, Claire Hunter, Evie Dalrymple

1. Minutes from prev meeting

Road Safety – A5 leaflet distributed after Sept weekend as planned, JRSO (junior road safety officers) being set up within school as part of the committees

Whats App; Connect advice is to draft a social media policy prior to setting this up but no other formal guidance they can offer.

Trim Trail – install hoped for mid November - Gill Graham was approached re council support for £500 Sports Safe payment and she has linked with both Mrs Walsh and education department – there is hope for support but no definitive – plan to withhold £500 within PC account as we may ultimately have to pay this ourselves.

Public Liability Insurance – our membership of Connect allows us sufficient cover – further details below.

2. Head teacher update

Please see below for more detail;

Discussion around the potential for non renewal of MyON – data from school shows poor uptake and Mrs Walsh asked for parents opinions on future options.

Option of a return to reading books/reading out loud with class teachers to develop confidence, delivery of prose etc was discussed; those with pupils at secondary school were able to share that there had been comment made on a lack of confidence when pupils are asked to read passages aloud in English and the lack of opportunity provided in primary for this.

Comment was made on the negative aspect of myon encouraging kids towards yet more tech time when a lot of us are trying to reduce this. Also, a loss of nurture by reading a physical book with parents.

Paired reading and buddy reading that have been used were encouraged to continue.

Home learning for strike day – it was recognised that a number of families and staff struggled to log on to various platforms on the previous strike days and it is hoped that this has been rectified. Mrs Walsh acknowledged that the additional pressure of home learning with working parents is stressful and difficult and the aim for this day is for the work to involve revision of previous class work and not to include new learning.

Hallowe'en;

Mrs Walsh was able to expand on the decision taken about in school Hallowe'en activities, including dressing up.

All staff had been consulted at the inservice day(23/10/23) on options for Hallowe'en and the decision was made to have no dressing up/down on Tuesday 31st.

This decision was made based on a number of factors including;

- The school do not wish to add financial pressures to families for things like costumes etc, especially during a cost-of-living crisis (this is one of the reasons we have Clothing Crew who work tirelessly to provide free school uniform for all families)
- There are a growing number of children who require support with transitions and change, and having people in costumes could cause unsettled behaviour and distress both at school and at home
- Whilst dressing down/up can cause unnecessary distress for some pupils, the behaviour of all children can be impacted in a way that is detrimental to learning, particularly at a time when we are focussing on maximising teaching and learning
- In a week where there is school closure which is different already, the impact of dress down would be hugely significant for lots of our children

There will be some curriculum related Hallowe'en themed work done in school.

There then followed a very contentious and heated time within the meeting where the disappointment and frustration about lack of Hallowe'en celebrations felt by some parents was voiced.

Sarah brought the discussion to a firm close to move on with other items on the agenda.

While it is recognised that the Parent Council are very much the voice of the parent group, decisions made by the school staff and ultimately the head teacher have to be respected.

It is recognised that whilst there are a number of children who struggle to cope with change, noise and the ghoulish costumes related to Hallowe'en, the current situation is understandably compounded by the unfortunate financial position the parent council were in at the start of session 23/4, when we had to make the decision not to hold a disco.

We are also lacking in support and volunteers to run these events or the likes of the pumpkin trial which was popular in the previous years.

It is very much hoped that the fundraising from the next few events – Christmas Fayre, Christmas artwork etc can help to boost the funds and we will be able to hold these events next session.

3. Treasurer Update;

Recent donation from Tuesday toddlers group who closed = £100.

Trim Trail final cost £10, 000 and hope to be installed mid November

Grant application for playground improvements – artwork, stage and outdoor toys (£2500) submitted and awaiting outcome/payment.

Current bank balance as at 26/10/23 = £1221.73.

£500 ringfenced for trim trail signoff = £721.73 available balance.

This is slightly more than we expected to have at this point, due to the toddlers donation and the trim trail cost being slightly lower than anticipated.

4. Christmas Artwork

Pamela has the templates and is working on putting forms together to get them out to the kids

5. Road Safety

Yet another incident this week with excessive speed along Meadside and a near miss. School and the community Police are aware and will be at school next week to have a visible presence.

No further meeting date with the Road Safety officer

6. P7 hoodies/Tannery

Alison meeting with Miss Montgomery and representatives from Scottish Leather group Monday 30th to arrange the project that will involve with P7s working on an enterprise project to fund their hoodies/leaver activies and also give them opportunity to see how local industry works.

It is hoped this will be complete for the Christmas Fayre

7. School shows

Is there scope for the older kids (P4-7) to do more of a 'show' rather than just singing?

Mrs Walsh will discuss with the senior school staff/kids.

8. Pesticide Spraying - not discussed.

9. Battery recycling – it had been noticed that the battery recycling box, and also the pens/food bank boxes were 'missing'

Mrs Walsh will investigate within school and let us know if/when they can be reinstated.

10. Clothing crew

Hazel and Ruth were thanked for their ongoing hard work with the running of the clothing crew.

All items donated are checked over for their wearability – seams, pockets, knees/elbows all checked. If any are not considered wearable they are used for the spares box within school.

All items are washed at home by Ruth and they are then all labelled and sized/sorted for display.

60 items were taken at the Learning Conversation evenings last month.

All donations welcome.

The same process is applied to the Christmas Jumpers.

Unfortunately, there is no space to accommodate Hallowe'en costumes as was suggested and while recognised as a great idea not one that can be accommodated at present.

11. School holidays 24/5

No confirmation from Renfrewshire Council after consultation was sent to all schools at the start of session 23/4.

12. Christmas Fayre

Hall is booked + janitor cover.

We can have access to the hall from 1pm -6pm on the Friday pm to set up and all help appreciated for this, even if just a hour.

Parent council membership of Connect allows us sufficient cover for the event however we have to ensure stall holders have their own public liability cover if they are professionally registered traders.

Currently 5 stall holders confirmed, plus P7s, second hand books, toys and clothes, waffles and tea/coffee/mince pies. Also hoping to have areas with interactive activities for children.

Santa grotto in the Snug which would leave the AV room for additional space/overspill.

Action; all parent council volunteers to continue to liaise over next few weeks to plan further.

Date of next meeting; TBC as trim trail development requires.