**Minutes**

**Parent Council Meeting**

**St James’ Primary School**

**21st February 2017**

**Present**

Anne McCabe (Chairperson)

Suzanne McKellar (Treasurer and Minutes)

Jen Walsh (Vice Chairperson)

Jennifer Kerr

Nicola McFadyen

Liz Gardener

Mr Retson (Head Teacher)

Mrs McKay (Acting Deputy Teacher)

**Apologies**

Paul McFadyen

**Head Teacher Report**

Mr Retson informed the meeting that the school has been awarded £40,800 from the pupil equity fund to close the attainment gap. Mr Retson consulted the parent council about the best use of this money. After a discussion the priority appeared to be the issues that occur from the large number of pupils whom English is not there first language. Different ideas were discussed including staffing, breakfast clubs, music lessons, teacher training and homework clubs that also help parents. It was agreed by the meeting that the staff within the school know the needs of the children best and that they would fully support the decisions that are made.

Mr Retson informed the meeting that the builders are nearly finished in the St James’ base and the children will be moving from the cabins on Monday (27th Feb.). The office staff will then be moving the following week.

**Chairperson Report**

Anne briefed everyone on the recent Renfrewshire Council Parent Council Chairpersons Meeting that she attended.

Anne confirmed that the P7 Leavers hoodies have been delivered.

**Treasurer Report**

Suzanne stated that the balance of the bank account is £2,598. The only activity on they account since the last meeting is paying the let for the Christmas Disco.

Suzanne asked the council if they would agree to spend £250 on books for the library. The meeting agreed.

**Action: Suzanne to buy books**

Suzanne asked if council members if they would like to buy the new primary 1 children a gift. After a discussion the meeting agreed to buy St James’ Water bottles. The cost will be approximately £50.

**Action: Suzanne to buy water bottles**

Suzanne also suggested that the Parent Council buy the primary 4 children a small gift to celebrate making their first holy communion. After a discussion the meeting agreed that photo frames for all P4 children and all P7 children in celebration of holy communion and confirmation was the best option.

**Action: Suzanne to price photo frames**

Suzanne informed the meeting that Dobbies offer a ‘Helping your community grow’ programme for donating plants, gardening equipment and advice to help local community groups.

**Action: Suzanne will apply for this**

Suzanne informed the meeting about the big lottery fund. This would be likely to be spent on the playground/outdoor learning. Will follow up on this in a few months when the builders have finished.

The meeting was also asked for ideas for the flightpath grant that we want to apply for. The most popular idea is an outdoor learning space.

**Action: Suzanne will apply for this**

The parent council agreed to give £800 to the school towards the price of computers.

**Road Safety**

Paul has taken the lead on this issue and emailed the undernoted information to the parent council as he was unable to attend tonight’s meeting.

*“In terms of an update on the road safety issues, I can advise as follows:*

*- I had a productive discussion a couple of weeks ago with Mr Retson, Sergeant Chris Daly, Gail Scoular from Renfrewshire Wardens and one of her colleagues.*

*- All of us agreed that some of the parking witnessed on the day was unacceptable, dangerous and illegal.*

*- Sergeant Daly instructed a number of drivers to move vehicles that were parked or stopped in dangerous positions.*

*- Gail Scoular advised that the warden service would be carrying out a week-long campaign at the school, probably in March.  They are only able to enforce the zigzags (yellow, not white as previously advised!) and are powerless against most of what we see on Gockston Road.  This will however also address engine idling which is another health concern of mine.*

*- My concern is that a one-week campaign will be forgotten by the culprits by the start of the following week.*

*- Children cross the roads at various points, there's no consistency or clearly defined safe area where they can do so.  Their views are generally blocked by dangerously parked cars.*

*- Buses' routes are regularly blocked at the corner of Gockston Road / Fullerton Street.*

*- When the most recent houses were planned, the council had promised the inclusion of a "safe area" for children but this appears to have been omitted when the houses were built.*

*- I plan to attend a forthcoming community council meeting (there was one last week but I couldn't make it) to summarise the above, explain the safety issues, request a site visit by Councillors to assess the dangers and make a plan to address them.*

*- I will also contact the bus company to update them on our concerns, to ask whether they have a view and to invite them to our meeting on 28 March.*

*- I also intend to contact the following and request their support.  I'd encourage all to do the same:*

*- Councillor Kenny McLaren - 0141 618 7146 or 07768 142258*

*- Councillor Mags McLaren - 0141 618 7149*

*- Councillor Terry Kelly - 0141 618 7125 or 07736 838146*

*- Councillor Tommy Williams - 0141 618 7126 or 07768 421294*

*- Gavin Newlands MP - gavin.newlands.mp@parliament.uk*

*- Gail Scoular was particularly helpful and informative.  Her phone number is 07535 523160.*

*- Sergeant Daly's email address is christopher.daly@scotland.pnn.police.uk*

*I hope to have progress and further feedback on this for the meeting on 28 March but would welcome at further thoughts after tomorrow's meeting”*

Mr Retson is fully supportive however requested that we hold off contacting local MP and councilors at present due the forthcoming elections.

**Disco**

There was no time to discuss the disco

**Family Fun Day**

Jen Walsh briefed the meeting about survey results regarding the fun day however there was no time to discuss this item any further.

**AOCB**

Paisley Express (make a wish)Anne informed the meeting that the Paisley Express ‘make a wish’ is not guaranteed to happen this year.

P7 Prom

The question was asked if the parent council want to contribute towards the prom. The meeting agreed that the prom is a school event and not a parent council event therefore we haven’t contributed to this event in the past and agreed that we won’t in the future. Last year a bag packing event was organised by the parent council as a one off event to raise money for Prom decorations that can be reused year after year.

Smarties Challenge

The smarties tubes will be issued to children on Friday 24th February and should be handed in on Monday 6th March. It was agreed that class with the most smartie tubes returned would have a celebration at golden time with juice and crisps supplied by parent council. This money will be used to fund the fun day in May.

Bag Packing

The planned bag packing looks like it may have to be cancelled at the weekend due to lack of helpers. There appears to be a bit of confusion whether is was supposed to be a school event of parent council event. Mr Retson confirmed that in future the school will organise their own bag packing events.

Supermarket tokens

We haven’t had a date of the supermarket tokens yet. Anne will contact Andrew Ward for an update.

Builders

Anne is going to contact the builders to request a donation.

Dates of Next Meetings:

Tuesday 28th March at 5.30pm

Tuesday 9th May at 5.30pm

Tuesday 20th June at 5.30pm