



Parent Council Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 2nd October 2019, 6.30pm

Attendance: -

Susanne Sandilands – Head Teacher
Robert Bamford – Deputy Head Teacher
Liz O’Neil – Principal Teacher
Walter Brogan – Local Councillor
15 parents
Waleeda Ahmed (Blossoms School wear)

Apologies: -

Alistair Fulton – Councillor
Katy Loudon – Councillor
Julie Morgan
Nadina

Previous Chair Morag Macleod attended and chaired the meeting as no chair had been appointed as yet and read through key points from minutes of September meeting.

Noted that Leanne Murdoch name was omitted from September minutes, Morag has rectified this.
Noted that for future meetings we can have number of parents attending without names if easier for minutes.

Councillor Update- Cllr Brogan

- Cllr Brogan agreed to look into the ongoing security issues- still no update from SLC on the intruder alert system, which was fitted over a year ago, he will investigate and update us next meeting.
- Halfway Fireworks 2nd November need volunteers for bucket collections.
- Halloween night in either the Hub or North Halfway Hall is in planning
- Looking into also Drama classes/ DJ Classes
- SLC broken ground on new nurseries
- Asked about catchments- no plans to change as far as he knows for primary and high school pointed out SLC are paying to bus kids out of our catchment when we have space at Hallside
- Cllr Brogan wants to consult with community and will be sending out a survey

- All welcome at Community Council meetings, 3rd Wednesday of month at 7pm

Headteacher Report

Mrs Sandilands read out the below HT report with following comments minuted.

- Parent Pay is up and running- need to get more people registered for it, noted some tech issues
- Annual Calendar has been issued
- Discussed Homework- parents raised some concerns about volume of homework- asked if flexible to days of week- can it be over 7 days to help working parents e.g. Mon-Mon? Susanne will consult with teachers on this
- A parent raised the point that by asking kids to complete homework on devices it can be divisive for some kids who don't have a device or a device which isn't compatible.
- Mr Bamford mentioned that parents do have an option to opt-out of homework
- Leadership opportunities for the P7's supporting the P1's going well
- Building issues- ongoing Fiona Roach was latest to reply re Gym Hall- awaiting authorisation to proceed with work. Morag highlighted the time we had been waiting and parent group agreed we would email SLC on behalf of parent council as taxpayers' money being spent on facility not fit for purpose and kids are missing out.
- 9 out of 10 cameras are working but black screen at school- SLC looking into it.
- Ladies toilet issue still ongoing, work scheduled for October week
- Charity- Mrs Sandilands wants to minimise the amount of charities we support, especially when looking at how this impacts on the cost of the school day, discussed briefly and agreed to consult with the kids on it.
- Bookfayre- discussed at decided to not continue in the future, books expensive, puts parents under pressure and little return for the school

Head Teacher Report Wednesday 2nd October 2019

School Roll

Our school roll is currently 273. Two new pupils joined the school, one in P1 and one in P5.

Curriculum

Ensure consistent high-quality teaching and learning for all learners is part of the role of the HT. I have carried out forward planning meetings with all staff in the school. The focus of the discussion has been the teaching and learning experiences planned for the term ahead. Dialogue has also focussed on tracking pupil attainment and personalised supports that can be put in place to ensure children are on track to achieve Early Level by the end of P1, First Level by the end of P4, Second level by the end of P7 or earlier or later for some children. The SLT will also carry out class visits to support the quality assurance process, conduct learning conversations with groups of children and monitor jotter work. We will share the photographs from this process via twitter.

Parent Pay

Parent Pay went live yesterday. Ordering of lunches in class is slicker, less time consuming, the children are enjoying using the technology to order lunch. 57% of our families have signed up. Mrs Milliard and Mrs Macmillan, office staff will support anyone requiring help to sign up. The school will be cashless, and the goal is to get 100% sign up.

Meet the Teacher

Thank you to all our parents and carers who were able to join us at the 'Meet the Teacher' event. We had 65% attendance at this event. We asked the parents and carers who attended the event to evaluate the session and we were delighted that we received 125 completed evaluations! 98% of responses stated that their child enjoyed participating in the session and 98% stated that the session helped the parent/carer to support learning at home. We are always keen to further improve and next year we will ensure that our calendar of school events is issued timeously in order to support families in attending events. Some comments...

Consultation

I have devised and issued a parent/carer questionnaire based on some of the aspects of How Good is Our School. The details are on the newsletter which is also available electronically on twitter. We appreciate honest feedback which we will use to inform future improvements. The teaching staff, support staff and pupils of the school will also have the opportunity to share their views this session.

School Lending Library

The school library is now ready to be used as a lending library. Thanks to Mrs Wilson in particular for all her hard work in relation to this. All the fiction books have been catalogued and Tuesday 22nd October, P1-P3 will borrow books on this day. P4-P7 the following wee

Lunch Time and After School Clubs

Some clubs are well underway, athletics, boys and girls football. Netball will be starting on a Tuesday lunchtime and drama a Wednesday lunch time. These clubs are offered to P6 and P7 children. Scripture Union will start on a Wednesday lunch time and offered to P5-P7. Kindle Reading Club will be running on a Monday lunchtime and offered to P4 and P5 children. The P7 Library Ambassadors will run a reading café for P3 children.

I would like to trial a family homework club on a Monday after school. The club would be open from 3.00pm – 4.00pm.

Child/children would attend with an adult who was collecting them and would have the opportunity to complete homework activities in the school environment and access ICT etc... this would start Monday 21st October and will continue if it is a support to families.

Leadership Opportunities

Empowering our school community will be an important feature of our school improvement work as the term progresses. Some opportunities to date are; a group of P7 children will participate in local Radio Show Training, thank you to Mr Bamford for organising. Paired Reader volunteers started with us again this week, thank you to Mrs O'Neill for organising.

Budget

We are committing some of our pupil equity funding to the purchase of banded texts, particularly around the P1-P3 stage to provide appropriate support and challenge to children.

School building

Update on building issues

Gym Hall

Fiona Roach, project officer from school modernisation team has been liaising with school staff regarding pending works. The work is with housing and technical resources to authorise and implement. As soon as we have confirmed details, we will notify the school community.

The alternative plan continues with classes accessing, the atrium, muga pitch and dining hall to ensure that all children are able to access the mandatory two hours of physical education.

Staff toilets

Works are scheduled to be carried out during the October week holiday.

Friends of Hallside

McMillan Coffee Morning – Thank you to everyone involved in organising. Raised just under £500.

Halloween Disco – On Halloween during school day.

Christmas Fayre – Saturday 7th December 10.00am – 2.00pm

End of HT Report

Blossoms

- Waheeda Ahmed from Blossoms attended the meeting following feedback and request at previous meeting to discuss further.
- Parents gave their (mostly negative) feedback of the quality and service they had received from Blossoms ad Waheeda explained her shop had been robbed and she was delayed with orders because of this, Waheeda offered to show us footage of the robbery which was declined. Waheeda apologised said she was keen to turn this around and was thanked for attending the meeting.

Election of Role Bearers

Morag asked for volunteers for the below positions and for someone to second them, the following roles were appointed, and all were in agreement

- Chair- Deborah Christie, seconded by Morag MacLeod
- Vice Chair Neil McCallum, seconded by Andrea Brownhill
- Secretary Loraine McHendry, seconded by Neil McCallum

- Treasurer Lynsey Gifford, seconded by Aileen Patterson

Morag will type these minutes then arrange to hand over full control of emails/ data etc from next meeting

Friends of Hallside

- Need more volunteers for the Christmas Fayre which is Sat 7th December 10-2pm, set up on day, night prior, on day help and raffle prize help
- FOH meeting Wednesday am from 9am still, all welcome

AOB

- Mrs Sandilands was asked if any update on the Bike shelter which was lost to the weather- advised it had been highlighted to Chris Quinn at SLC
- It was asked by a parent if we could do a partnership with an old people's home like on the Channel 4 programme, school will look into it.
- Aldi Scheme was asked about- school confirmed they are participating so please do bring in stickers.

Next Meeting Wednesday 6th November at 6.30pm