

Bent Parent Council

AGM 20/11/23

Minutes

- Attendees: Colin Thompson (CT), Natalie Bain (NB), Lucy Douglas (LD), Kerry Beadle (KB), Laila McKay (LM), Jennifer Leiper (JL), Jacqueline Discombe (JD), Douglas Discombe (DD), Rebecca Park (RP), Michelle Gilmartin (MG), Barbara Lees (BL) Hazel Reid (HR), Charlene Reid (CR), Lara Malone (LM)
- Apologies: Lynsey Cosgrove, Aileen Naismith, Debbie Scott
- CT- Welcome everyone and introduced Barbara Lees, the head teacher from Lesmahagow High School.
  - ❖ BL thanked everyone for inviting her to the meeting and outlined what measures the high school have implemented with Bent in order to make transitions for p7's easier for pupils.
  - ❖ BL explained that teachers from different departments have been visiting Bent to get the pupils familiar with some teachers. Also, some sporting events here the kids can all participate and mix.
  - ❖ There are 2 information events online for parents and pupils as well as in person visits to the school for parents and pupils.
  - ❖ A spotlight event for specific departments is available along with enhanced visits for any pupils who require.
  - ❖ 2 day visit in June for all pupils attending.
  - ❖ Has given out a feedback sheet on what parents would like transitions to include and asked that these be completed and given back to CT to funnel back to her.
  - ❖ Asked if any questions. None at the meeting, also happy to take questions later if anyone thinks of anything.
  - ❖ CT thanked BL for attending and BL left the meeting.
- Head teachers update-
  - There are 19 P7s transitioning to high school this year.
  - Budget cut proposals have been published on the council's website for anyone that would like to view them.
  - Christmas jumpers can be worn from 1st December on a Monday & Friday
  - Panto on Wednesday 6th December at Lanark- Sleeping Senga- free of charge to all pupils
  - Nativity practice is in full swing, there will be 2 shows with each family being offered 2 tickets with additional available if required.
  - Christmas school lunch has been sent out to all families to pick their child's option.
  - Christmas parties will take place in their classes
  - House treat will take place on the 23rd before the kids finish at 2pm.

- Anti bullying policy survey went out to all parents and will go towards updating the policy. School are working towards and anti bullying accreditation. This ties in nicely with the schools values.
  - Mrs Could is working to get the school an attachment accreditation, it's a long journey that could take up to 2 years. A nurture base has been created .
  - We share our maths recovery training with teachers from Woodhill to benefit the children that transition from Woodhill to Bent.
  - CT has already started visits to Woodhill for the potential P1 new starts.
  - Hopeful of 14 new p1 pupils next term
  - Potential p1 parents have already been touring the school to help make a choice.
  - The school has made a grant application to cash for kids.
  - Jackets and boots have been purchased by the school for any children that require help.
  - Reports will be issued on Friday, these are brief, if any issues with interpretation, contact the school who are happy to help.
  - RHSP sexual health topic will start January rather than in May. available to search info online RHSP.scot
- LD- Could we do a donation drive for winter jackets rather than our heading these at cost to the school? CT advised that historically this has not been popular.
- Treasurers report (prepared by AN, reported by LD)
    - 
    - Income - bonus ball: £316
    - Expenditure - £500 panto
    - £201.78 ( £108.25 books for Christmas; £93.53 Halloween goodie bags and prizes)
    - Total £1130.94
- Books have been bought for each child for christmas, shall we put anything else with them?
- Background: so prior to covid the parent council did not give a gift to all children, main event in December was Christmas raffles at nativities to fundraise. During covid this changed...2020 kids had been off school a lot that year, and classes were in 'bubbles' so Parent council funded various activities that year: virtual party, virtual panto; reindeer antlers to decorate (and prizes for best decorated antlers); a book and choc reindeer each. In 2021, every child got a book and a pair of gloves and in 2022, every child got a book and a beanie hat. CT will canvas teachers and feedback.
- Does school want a goodie bag to be provided for each child for the panto? If so is the same as halloween ok ie. fruit shoot, crisps and mini haribo, or would they rather other items? Are there still 80 children? CT- that would be great. Now 82 children.

- Fundraising - Could we look at doing a christmas raffle at the nativities? In the past donations were brought into school and prior to nativities, Parent council went in to make hampers from donations and sort out into prizes and ensure a split between both nativities. Other schools are having christmas fayres and various fundraising activities, therefore I feel we should be able to fundraise in this way. It raised a good amount in the past and there is no obligation to buy a ticket. CT advised that he has committed to the cost of the school day policy and as such can't agree to this. Members asked if it would be possible to fundraise outwith the school and as a parent council separate to the school. This would be acceptable.
- Blackwood and Kirkmuirhill Gala - Bent is being asked P1 & P7 children to be involved - if children are involved, I think we should try and arrange for the school to take part in the parade, either a float or walking parade to support our children. If so, we should be thinking of themes/ideas for the next meeting. - CT advised that again, due to the cost of the school day, the school doesn't have the funds available to subsidize each child participating. If the parent council want to arrange involvement, this would be separate from the school.
- If the PTA could provide some goodies for Xmas parties that would be appreciated.
- School purchase a selection box for all children, could PTA ask for donations of same from local businesses?
- NB- is it possible for the app to be updated more often with significant dates? CT wasn't aware that this was not on there already, will chase this up.
- Parent Portal still isn't ready to switch to.
- NB- Can the school participate in the creative writing competition hosted by the target centre? CT wasn't aware of it, absolutely. NB to send over details.
- NB- school photos haven't been well received by parents. PTA will look into a replacement photographer.
- PTA to look into easyfundrasing

Next meeting Monday 26th February 2024 7pm