

## **Black Mount Primary School - Parent Council Meeting Minutes DRAFT**

**2nd November 2022**

**Present:** Corrie Ward, Dan Brunton, Jenni Dods, Kirsten Jenkins, Nick Tucker, Trina Malone, Emma Ives, Katie Hobbs, Gregor Doyle, Wendy Kinloch, Jim Kinloch, Alison Boyd, Tracey Pritchard, Carol Pennock (head teacher), Gemma Scott (teacher), Dorothy Ramsay (teacher), Lorna Jackson (teacher), Alex Allison (local councillor), Ralph Barker (local councillor), Student sustainability group

**Apologies:** *Angela Murray, Alistair Muirhead*

*\*Parent Forum: term refers to all parents of any pupil in the school*

### **Student sustainability group presentation:**

- We were delighted to welcome the student sustainability group to talk through their plans and hopes for the school
- The powerpoint will be made available to all

### **Catchment area:**

- We had invited local councillors to support us when we write to the council to ask them to include Newbigging in the catchment area
- Carol introduced the numbers at Black Mount vs Carnwath
- Dan had worked out the carbon emissions from additional car journeys through the year for the Newbigging to Black Mount families at 1.5tonnes of carbon
- Councillors made suggestions for approach to council
  - Contact Lynn Sherry (works with Mr Hinshelwood)
  - There would be an in-house evaluation of the situation which would look at whether the changes to catchment would affect teacher numbers, and any other cost implications; proposal to committee > consultation > final decision with committee
  - Alex Allison was happy to support our plans to include Newbigging; Ralph Barker was also supportive of our overall proposal
  - The suggestion was to get in touch with them asap in the hope a decision could be reached before next August

### **Outside space:**

- Solar panels:
  - Children's Eco/Sustainability group are writing to the council to ask about installing solar panels to environmental impact of school

- It was agreed the Parent council would follow up with South Lanarkshire Council after this to get agreement that solar panels (freestanding or roof mounted) can be installed at the school
- There was a discussion about how freestanding ones would connect to the plant room so this needs to be figured out
- Auchengray has panels so this could give insight into workings/profitability etc
- Rugby club also has a battery which heats water - Trina will get details / ask Nigel to talk to parent council
- Jim has an approx cost of £13k for 10panels, totalling 4kw plus a 9.2kw battery (price includes installation); 4kw is well under the 8kw which would require special permissions from Scottish Power in terms of the feed-in tariff
- Both councillors were made aware of our plans and were encouraging
  - We should consider how to pitch this to the council - if profits are generated where would they go? (initially we intend to ringfence a maintenance fund but remainder for school/community/other to be agreed)
  - They suggested contacted Vance Sinclair for this request
- Pagoda/Gazebo:
  - No update on pagoda progress as Alistair wasn't present. Emma will follow up to get update on intended installation date(s)
- Growing plans:
  - Jenni will make a plan for growing that revolves around the school year
  - Jenni will make a gardening / weeding checklist for school and anyone who wants to contribute
  - Jenni has a 6ft polytunnel that she is going to donate to the school for them to start growing next year, this will help the school ease into the commitment of growing which would require at least fortnightly tending
    - This needs a cover bought
  - Once nursery co-opted member comes on board we will discuss contributions from nursery in holiday times
  - We agreed to try and rota in regular gardening days from January onwards so parent forum and wider community can join in
  - Trees will be arriving at the school and we agreed to come together on Saturday 26th November to plant as many as possible - 12noon start
    - Jenni will bring appropriate tools
  - The plants with poisonous berries are also needing removed - anyone is free to rehome these
  - There are plans in motion to do composting and no-dig beds so cardboard donations are welcome
    - If the volume is too much for school Jenni has agreed to store
    - Carol will alert people via school app about collecting their christmas cardboard

**Social:**

- Beetle Drive - 11th November 6.30pm:
  - Kids Enterprise Committee to lead on bake sale, tombola and toy/book sale on night as part of fundraising efforts for unicef - donations for all welcomed
  - Capacity 80 - a google form will be issued to RSVP for numbers
  - Kirsten has secured tables
  - Parent forum asked to bring finger food for evening (nut free)
  - Wendy will buy prizes for beetle drive winners, as well as tea/coffee/squash
  - Wendy donating mugs to community kitchen
  - Carol will bring Urns from Auchengray
  - Veg-ware disposable plates to be bought/used for food
  - School will provide dice, pencils, game sheets and float for kids sales
- Christmas Show - 19th November 7pm:
  - Katie is liaising with parent forum for donations for raffle/hamper - needed to be in school by Friday 16th at latest (one child hamper, one adult hamper)
  - Alison and Wendy will be responsible for selling raffle tickets on night
  - Emma + anyone to help with tea/coffee on night
  - Top up tea/coffee stock after beetle drive, keep in designated parent council box at school
- Film Night 3rd February at Biggar Corn Exchange
  - Kids will choose film
  - Intend to raffle film dvd at end
  - Avril will book date of 3rd at corn exchange
  - Carol will look up costs for previous film night
  - This will be a bring your own snack event
  - Any further details to be agreed at January meeting (11th)

### **Fundraising:**

- Child-led goals: parent council agreed that once the pagoda is complete we would like the kids to choose the next fundraising agenda for us - school will guide them in this
- Carol to pull together a figure for a fundraising goal for parent council - parent council funds allow the school to provide:
  - Free school bags, free gym bags, costumes for shows, calculators and pendrives for p7 leavers. They would like to add team sports tops and additional resources in future
- Clothing bank: raises an average of £50/month for school so we should keep encouraging its use
- Approach to fundraising:
  - We agreed in cost of living crisis we didn't want to ask too much of school community money-wise and will try to focus on funding applications whenever possible
  - It was agreed we should have a spreadsheet of funding applications and deadlines - Emma will put a template on google drive
  - Carol will share her monthly funding newsletter she receives - Kirsten will look at this

- Plan to have a one winter fundraiser and one spring fundraiser per year and can increase if appropriate
- Fundraising activities:
  - We will organise a sponsored walk up black mount hill with max £5 per child
  - Discussed attending a car boot / table sale and asking for donations - we agreed to look at this in Spring 2024
- Black Mount Community Council Funding:
  - Carol to resend crockery request for community kitchen to BMCC for funds by 4/11
  - Anyone can submit requests to BMCC - parent council to agree who /what

#### **Treasurers update:**

- Trina has arranged for old signatories to be removed and Dan Brunton and Emma Ives added; Trina will follow up until process complete

#### **AOB:**

- Staff changes: facilities staff changes have been made at Black Mount, unfortunately Carol has no say in these moves. A cook-in-charge has moved to Black Mount from a smaller school and Leighann and Katharine are moved to elsewhere.
  - Helen has agreed to write a letter on our behalf to council
- Leaking classroom external door: councillors AA and RB suggested contacting Vance Sinclair about this - Carol to follow up
- Google site: Emma will use christmas to put together an online site with all the parent council activities/calendar/minutes/other (possibly some kind of chat function)
- Coopted members (non-parent members up to a max 6 people)
  - A member of Black Mount Nursery staff will be joining the parent council as a co-opted member - Carol will confirm once agreed in full with nursery.

#### **Next meetings:**

- Informal meeting at Emma's house on 7th December 7pm (children welcome) - looking at funding for outside space
- Full meeting at school: 11th January 2023, 7-9pm