

Black Mount Primary School - Parent Council Meeting Minutes FINAL

1st February 2023

Present: Jim Kinloch, Emma Ives, Katie Hobbs, Gregor Doyle, Trina Malone, Dan Brunton, Jenni Dods, Nick Tucker, Helen Ward, Dorothy Ramsay (teacher), Lorna Jackson (teacher), Gemma Scott (teacher) Lindsay McLaughlin (teacher) **Quorum is 7*

Apologies: *Wendy Kinloch, Alison Boyd, Tracey Pritchard, Alistair Muirhead, Corrie Ward, Kirsten Jenkins, Carol Pennock (head teacher)*

**Parent Forum: term refers to all parent/carer of any pupil in the school*

Social:

- Film Night 3rd February at Biggar Corn Exchange
 - Friends and family welcome to event, current sign ups by rsvp deadline 30+
 - Final tasks checked and agreed

Outside space:

- Pagoda/Gazebo:
 - Update from Alistair 01/02/23: *"I still don't have the services schedule. This is required before we can proceed further. Material can be sourced fine. Cancel the two build weekends in February."*
 - Jenni has secured an additional £1000 from Biggar Farmers Club towards the Pagoda rebuild. Bringing total available to £4050
 - Unanimous vote to move in a different direction and buy a pagoda/gazebo kit
 - Jim to update Alistair (not present)
 - Jenni to coordinate groundworks, including with Alison (not present)
- Gardening:
 - Jenni can bring her polytunnel frame, if we decide not to buy one, Katie will purchase a cover (money from VASLAN fund)
 - Jenni liaise with school about planting with kids - first date Tuesday 7th 2.15pm
 - School to work with Jenni to purchase seeds, compost etc (again we can use VASLAN funds)
- Sports equipment:
 - VASLAN funds to spend on sports equipment, school to think of what they would like, so far: soft balls

Fundraising:

- Fundraising activities:
 - Jenni suggested we look at Glencarry windfarm funding in case this has potential
 - Emma will share SDF funding application with school

- Dan agreed he would be willing to draft a National Lottery application - based on elements from the SDF fund
- Gregor offered time later in Spring if there are more funding applications to draft
- Dorothy agreed teachers will pull together a 'wishlist' of items the school would like funding for across the year
- School also need to confirm where money is already allocated in their budget
- Emma to email local councillors to see if they know of / can support any further fundraising applications
- Black Mount Community Council Funding:
 - Community kitchen crockery funding application submitted to BMCC by school and will be considered w/b 6th Feb. Nick suggested it would be good for someone to be there to answer questions - Dorothy will discuss with Carol

Treasurer's update:

- Dan and Emma added to bank as named people - complete
- Online banking access for Trina, Dan, Emma benign requested, as well as name change from Walston to BM and address update submitted (approx timeline 7-10days)
- Trina will create a spreadsheet / balance sheet for parent council account/funds
- Teachers brought a list of funds held by school for parent council, need confirmation of £5k for outdoor classroom or other

AOB:

- Helen Ward is in attendance and requested to join parent council, there is one space and unanimous agreement that we would welcome Helen to join.
- Emma to chase up council about catchment change request; Nick to ask in BMCC AOB whether the BMCC can also chase what is happening with the catchment request
- Discussed after-school club again and agreed we would be happy to discuss again but cost seems prohibitive, however we haven't asked Parent Forum or Nursery Parents to do a true costing. Teachers pointed out the breakfast club didn't used to exist but then demand increased: The Breakfast Club is an authority (government?) funded initiative which pays the extra hours for support staff to run these clubs. We do not have any control over the hours or what is supplied to the children. It is open to all children and at the moment we have about half a dozen children who use it regularly. Will add this to a short survey
- Parents evening - this should be happening in the second half of March over two nights
 - We agreed one/two parent council member(s) will attend on each night in shifts perhaps to offer tea and a space to survey parents on what they would like us to do
- There is a draft website, Emma to ask Carol to add link to school website, will use this to inform parent forum; discussed a newsletter but settled on website and perhaps a way to make the minutes more accessible to read 'highlights' / 'what is happening' format
<https://sites.google.com/view/bm-parent-council>

- Pupil request to discuss bringing in their own snack, agreed hungry children can request two biscuits. Priority was that snacktime remains equitable across entire school
- Katie has shared a list of Gala day themes for consideration

Next meetings: Full meeting at school 1st March 2023, 7-9pm