

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

**15th March 2023**

**Present:** Emma Ives, Katie Hobbs, Gregor Doyle, Trina Malone, Jenni Dods, Nick Tucker, Helen Ward, Tracey Pritchard, Corrie Ward, Kirsten Jenkins, Carol Pennock (head teacher), Lorna Jackson (teacher), Gemma Scott (teacher) Lindsay McLaughlin (teacher), Alison Barr (nursery) *\*Quorum is 7*

**Apologies:** *Wendy Kinloch, Jim Kinloch, Alison Boyd, Dan Brunton, Dorothy Ramsay (teacher)*

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

### **Outside space:**

- Pagoda/Gazebo:
  - Lewin/Graeme/Jenni gathering last materials and looking to get started on 19th March (depending on availability). Support welcomed from anyone who feels they can help so that it can be fully up by end of Easter break
- Accessible playground entrance:
  - The pedestrian gate into car park and small playground gate will be unlocked for improved access for those unable to manage stairs. This will apply for evening and weekends
- Community access during summer time:
  - Carol confirmed with SLC Support Services Coordinator Rosemary McStay that although the council proposed community access to garden space prior to school being built that this cannot happen during Nursery open times. Access to community remains as after 4.30pm and weekends.
  - There was discussion about what this means for community engagement, funding applications and future plans
- Gardening:
  - Alison confirmed nursery would be very keen to use a polytunnel for growing during summer months
  - There was discussion of specific events where PVG checked community members could come and garden/skill-share with the nursery at organised events. Alison Barr will take this to Nursery Management for discussion.
- VASLAN funds and School wishlist:
  - School staff provided a wishlist of items they would like to purchase with support of parent council including: scooters, outdoor storage container, gardening shed, securable shelving for shed, boxes for outdoor equipment, outdoor sports equipment, big soft balls, general balls, bean bags, skipping ropes, laptops, cooking aprons, online french resource called 'High Five French', and annually - ties for P7s / school bags for P1s / PE bags for P1s. (School agreed they will use own funds for pen drive / calculators for P7s, shed and shelving)

- Discussed what if equipment is damaged or stolen - will look to BMCC microgrants to support repairs/replacements if this becomes an issue

## **Social:**

- Parents Evening
  - The parent council will be present at parents evenings (22 and 23 March) to talk with other parents and gather their views, share our plans.
    - Emma will write a crib sheet for questions / updates
    - Helen will cover 3.30-4.30 Wednesday; Katie & Corrie will cover 4.30-5.30 Wednesday; Nick will be available after 5.30 Wednesday; Trina will cover 3.30-4.30 Thursday; Emma will cover 4.30-5.30 Thursday
    - We are looking for extra volunteers for above so there are always 2 parents there
- Upcoming plans for:
  - Duck race 19th May (see fundraising)
  - Walk up Black Mount hill 26th August - Gregor will lead and again will be looking for support to organise. Could involve
- Community engagement:
  - There is still appetite for more community engagement, potentially summertime saturday growing/gardening days with tea/biscuits from community kitchen. Carol needs to check how many free let hours school/parent council can have annually to see if we need to pay.
  - Bookings for school hall are either intranet for school/parent council, or on SLC website for community events (pricing varies depending on community free events vs community paid events vs private events etc. Pricing unknown and may change if Elsrickle Hall becomes out of use.

## **Fundraising:**

- Fundraising activities:
  - Duck Race on 19th May; Katie Hobbs to lead organising, she will pull together a group to support. Past this has been in Dunsyre, parking in field, food and fun.
    - Jenni to contact Lance Armstrong
  - Emma emailed local councillors to see if they know of / can support any further fundraising applications - Ian McAllan has replied to support
  - VASLAN: monies need spent, once online banking is set up we will order from the school wishlist
  - Black Mount Community Council Funding:
    - Community kitchen crockery funding application was approved in march
    - Katie has submitted another for community events in Easter/Summer
    - Emma has submitted one from parent council for garden tools/equipment (the nursery has also submitted one for parent+child cooking classes at the school)
    - (three above will be considered at BMCC public meeting 29th March at school)

### Treasurer's update:

- Just awaiting digital banking access as final step to access money
- Spreadsheet with spend in the google drive for parent council to look at
- £3288 balance (includes reimbursements for recent purchases)
- School will transfer £500 they are holding for parent council to our account

### Communication:

- School are looking into a noticeboard for parent council to be situated outside school entrance
- **How we work together: We spoke about how we are all volunteering our time and doing our best to support kids and school. We agreed that in future if we offer our time we will try our best to meet timelines agreed, if we cannot do something for any reason we will be honest and open with one another and there will be no judgement - we will just look for a new solution to any plans/issues.**
- School app: Emma will get training from Carol on use of school app and parent council can use until January when it will no longer be in use, replaced by Parent Portal
- Updated minutes will be posted on parent council website:  
<https://sites.google.com/view/bm-parent-council>

### AOB:

- Meeting dates/times:
  - Want to look at ways to be more inclusive of wider parent forum in setting future meeting dates/times as the evening slot does not suit lots of parents who are keen to join us
  - Discussion around having quarterly meetings from August onwards with working groups meeting in between and running with events/ideas and reporting back
- IT Refresh at school:
  - The council will be refreshing all IT which means decommissioning lots of laptops, school will look at fundraising but parent council has funded these in past. They must be bought through procurement system
  - Carol will ask if old decommissioned laptops can be kept given they were bought by parent council
- Nursery: Emma attended the Black Mount nursery's parents evening and some parents raised that they would like more chances to meet other parents. School agreed to offer daytime hall use to nursery so they can arrange social events for nursery parents during week time daytime.
- Change of members: Alistair Muirhead resigned since the last meeting. He requested his emails were shared with whole parent council and this was done.
- Constitution: Emma has updated constitution to cover hibernation of parent council and dissolution clauses following advice from VASLAN. Carol will share update with SLC.

- Biscuits - we will order a large batch of biscuits for delivery to school for after easter
- Cakes in school - we discussed that although school will not say no to birthday cakes they would like to discourage this with reference to allergies, dietary requirements and reducing cost of the school day
- Homework was raised with mixed views. Carol will add this to parent consultation questionnaire
- Bike Safety / Bikeability: school currently offer to P7s, would like to roll out to P4+ but need more volunteers, training is available - if anyone is interested please discuss with school. This will happen for P7 in third term.
- After School Clubs planned: none fixed but Miss Scott is looking at a Netball club in term 3 for big class and multi-sports for wee class. There will also be a stay+play for parents and children after school (previous stay+play have included rounders, curling, board games)
- Fast Cars in Elsrickle: we will carry this to May - this has been raised by parent council at BMCC and they are investigating next steps for traffic calming measures

**Next meetings:** Full meeting at school evening of Wednesday 3rd May 2023. Time TBC

- Carrie Allison will be invited to next meeting (3rd May) to discuss Gala day plans, themes, funding.
- Headteachers report to be added to agenda for next meeting