

Black Mount Primary School - Parent Council Meeting Minutes FINAL

3rd May 2023

Present: Emma Ives, Katie Hobbs, Gregor Doyle, Trina Malone, Nick Tucker, Tracey Pritchard, Wendy Kinloch, Jim Kinloch, Alison Boyd, Kirsten Jenkins, Carol Pennock (head teacher), Lorna Jackson (teacher), **Quorum is 7*

Apologies: *Dan Brunton, Jenni Dods, Corrie Ward, Helen Ward, Dorothy Ramsay (teacher), Gemma Scott (teacher) Lindsay McLaughlin (teacher), Alison Barr (nursery)*

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

Outside space:

- Pagoda/Gazebo:
 - Is up and just a few bits of build left to do (benches and some wee tweaks. A HUGE amount of work has been done to get this in place and owe a huge thank you to Lewin, Kevin and Graham who took on the build. The school will coordinate a thank you letter from the kids.

- Outside tap
 - Some of our VASLAN funds were for tap install - school already had this arranged (delays due to contractor)
 - Carol to chase up contractor for install asap
 - This will be important for watering any planting in the outside space
 - VASLAN funds will be diverted to a long hose(s) to stretch across outside space

- Parental support on planting
 - There has been talk of parental support during school day to help with planting, hasn't yet happened due to busy schedules
 - It was raised that there are concerns there is no plan in place for follow up (weeding, watering, etc required after initial planting). This still needs fleshed out with school

- Community use of outdoor space
 - We agreed in March for the pedestrian gate into car park and small playground gate to be unlocked for improved access for those unable to manage stairs. This will apply for evening and weekends. This hasn't been done yet. Carol to update team to ensure it changes moving forward
 - Emma will engage with nursery to propose community access times for summer gardening - as a trial for future
 - A local authority wide directive was issued from South Lanarkshire Council to ensure community access (unlocked) to all muga pitches on school grounds in

evenings/weekends (this followed our interest in community access to outside space)

Social:

- Biggar Gala Day:

- Black Mount pupils have been participating in the Biggar Gala Day with a float for a number of years - the float won the overall decorated float prize last year too.
- The parent council discussed the theme for this year and it was decided to do 1950's UK beach holiday (think donkey rides and beach huts)
- If anyone (adult/child) would like to support the decorating of the float please get in touch with the parent council and we will put you in touch with those decorating
- Everyone is welcome to be part of the day (17th June) - usually 9am arrival in Biggar for a 10am judging (bring plenty snacks for the wait)
- Children are encouraged to wear fancy dress on the day but any child can participate even if they are not in fancy dress.
- Parent Council will put a call out for materials - paints, wood, large cardboard too.

- Walk up Black Mount Hill - 26 August:

- Walk up Black Mount hill 26th August - Gregor, Alison and Kirsten will lead - anyone else keen to help would be most welcome.
- New parents/carers to be invited for a whole school event
- Likely this event would set off at 10am, returning to school for food after
- Need to consider length of walk for different abilities
- No shooting is expected on hill, Katie will update gamekeeper on time/date plans
- Carol will request to book school for afterwards

- Community use of school:

- Council are asking for next year's school bookings now, this isn't feasible and options are limited now that Elsrickle and Dolphinton halls have been closed by council
- Carol will raise community use of facilities (toilets and/or community kitchen) with support services
- Emma to write to councillors to gain support on this front to make school lets more accessible especially with hall closures

Fundraising:

- Duck Race - 19 May

- Katie, Haley, Trina, Chantel are leading on this
- 600 Ducks - parent council agreed (unanimous) to use £80 from our funds to buy these ducks for future events and to rent out
- Event will be Friday 19th May, 6.30-8pm at Dunsyre bridge.

- Several reminders to go out on the school app for returning forms, and encouraging people to come hungry and with towels for wet children
- Hot dogs (meat/veggie), Soup (meat/veggie) and baking will be available
- Any unsold ducks to be offered to nursery parents
- Helpers welcome to arrive from 5pm
- Plans for fundraising element - ducks £2, 600 available; expenditure total £493; Hot dogs £1.50 and soup £1, plus homebaking (various £)
- We asked if school could do a paper boat making activity with kids so that have something else to bring/play with on night
- Still looking for tea thermos - not sure if tea will be offered

- Fundraising activities:
 - VASLAN: Started to spend monies:
 - Storage box is now located between school and muga pitch - containing mix of sports equipment for community use
 - Polytunnel and planting materials still to be ordered
 - Black Mount Community Council Funding:
 - Katie was successful in getting £300 for a community food event this year
 - The parent council was successful in getting £500 for garden equipment for community growing plans
 - Emma went to the BMCC meeting to support the above two applications, as well as one submitted by the nursery - this was successful too and the nursery now have an oven/cooker and are already baking/cooking with the nursery kids.
 - School needs:
 - Teachers gave us a 'wishlist' for fundraising at March meeting - Emma to return for teachers to prioritise most>least important
 - Additional items were raised:
 - wellies/waterproofs
 - Wheel in/out storage for these to live under the canopy and wheeled in at night (potentially £300-400)
 - Other ideas:
 - Angela may be interested in arranging an parent gin-tasting afternoon tea
 - Community car wash is not feasible due to insurance costs
 - Emma will remind Corrie of her idea of car boot sale - worth checking if Tinto Village Day is a good time

Treasurer's update:

- We are going to shift bank account to a community account to allow online payments and card payments (currently the treasurers account allows cheques only)
- A copy of this years spend will be shared on parent council website for everyone to see

Updates from school:

- Head Teacher's Report

- Carol prepared a report for parent council - see attached
- Carol highlighted that they are looking to make improvements to expressive arts (arts, music, drama) teaching/provision for next year
 - They have arranged a staff visit to the Music Resource at Biggar Primary School as a first step
- New starts for P1
 - Current numbers look like 8 (4 in catchment and 4 placing requests)
 - Avril will order school bags and parent council to fund these - costs to be given to parent council in advance to ensure plenty budget
- Dorothy Ramsay Retiring
 - Dorothy will be retiring from the end of June. She has reduced her days to 3 days in the run up to her retirement
 - School asked for additional teaching staff to cover but this was not forthcoming, big class is being managed 3 days by Dorothy and 2 days by Miss McLaughlin who is in her probationary year.
 - Recruitment will be underway for a new principal teacher to replace Dorothy and interviews will be in-house (Carol and team) - expected to start at the beginning of next term (14.08.23)
- Inspection pending
 - It is likely the school will be inspected before the end of term
 - Inspectors would give the school 2 weeks notice and can be in the school for anywhere from 3-5 days depending on type of inspection
 - Emma (as chair of parent council) will get to represent the views of the parent council and other parents will also be invited to meet with the inspectors to share their views
 - There are 15 quality indicators that can be measured and around 3-5 are chosen by inspectors for that inspection.
- End of term
 - There will be a celebration on 22nd June, no concert
 - School sports day will happen during the day - no parents will be invited
 - Black Mount Sports Day (unrelated to school, open to whole community) will be on 25th May
 - P1 and P7 parents will be invited to a transition event on 26th (morning and lunchtime)
 - Photos have been booked - Carol will ask Avril for confirmation
- Children's reports
 - There are three formats for this - currently teachers do the most lengthy format. Carol to ask parents whether they like this or would prefer a longer parents evening slot and shorter report format

AOB:

- After School Club

- Biggar After School Club has announced their closure from August. Some parents have been able to shift but others are still looking
- Kirsten has been speaking with the Playbarn at Carstairs Junction and they seem willing to do a FREE school pick up from Black Mount
- Emma will send a message to parent forum through school app re: Playbarn

- Speed reducing measures in Elsrickle
 - John, secretary of BMCC is still pursuing measures from the council. They have already added mustard coloured paint to tarmac on road. Their response was that Elsrickle was not on a list for further measures and current signage was 'in working order' (if anyone wants to read email Emma can share)
 - Kirsten mentioned 'community speed watch' where community take shifts with a speed gun. Two catches of same person police will speak with them, catching a speeding commercial vehicle we can directly contact company for response. This measure has been trialled in Fife.

- Catchment area:
 - The council have refused to agree at this stage, letters available (ask Emma/Trina/Dan)
 - We want to counter their responses, there are currently taxi spaces in taxis travelling through newbigging and children could be accessing these
 - We need to get councillors to push back on this too
 - Carol to share spaces available in taxis with Trina

- Noticeboard: Carol to chase up noticeboard for parent council outside

Next meetings: Full meeting at school evening of Wednesday 7th June 6-8pm.

- This is the last meeting of this year
- We will set the date for the parent council AGM in September.

- Updated minutes will be posted on parent council website:
<https://sites.google.com/view/bm-parent-council>