

## **Robert Owen Memorial Primary school**

### **Parent Council**

#### **Minutes of the meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 19:00 in the school staff room.**

##### **Present**

Anne Coubrough, Christina Turner, Jenni Smith, Laura Black, Bronwen Aidoo. Mr Dickson, Suzanne Barrie, Fiona Barr, Claire Frood, Nicola Wilson, Vicky Day. Kayley Girvan.

##### **Apologies**

Ina Marshall, Lorraine Dick, Erica Baillie, Kathryn Gartshore, Mrs Ross, Mrs Bradshaw, Vicky Epton, Gemma Good, Gareth Brown, Catriona Murdoch and Mrs White.

##### **Welcome**

Laura Welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Mr Dickson for being present at the meeting.

##### **Approval of September minutes**

Proposed Nicole Wilson,

Seconded Fiona Barr

##### **School Business**

Mr Dickson, has rejoined the staff and is attending the meeting in Mrs Ross's absence due to bereavement leave and Mrs Bradshaw's apologies. He advised Mrs Allan and her baby are doing well. He updated the meeting on the current staffing situation within the school.

Enrollment is live in January. Several new families have joined the school and are feeling welcome.

Staff continue to work on the School improvement plan, and this continues as planned.

Fundraising for the Defibrillator was very successful and the final amount for 1 pound challenge will be finalized soon. The extra funds will be used for consumables for the defibrillator and additional training of staff and children in CPR.

## **Parent Council Business**

### **Finance Update**

Nicola advised that the signatories have not yet been updated. The Bank advises that the form has been lost. The change of signatories has been resubmitted to the bank. The bank account will be changed to a community account and will now incur a standing charge of 4.25 a month.

Current account balance is £2254.65

The contribution for the pantomime will be 831 pounds. There are still gift sale expenses to be taken off and £720 to be paid for Borders biscuits. £492 have been received from biscuits sales so far.

### **Borders Biscuit Sale**

Biscuit stock remaining as of meeting date

Dark chocolate gingers @ £4.50 3

Classic collection @ £5.50 40

Luxury Chocolate Sharing @ £6.00 44

Volunteers for deliveries are Claire Frood and Bronwen Aidoo.

### **Christmas Gift Sale**

Friday the 29th November will be the Gift sale and the subcommittee has completed most of the purchases and have prepared the makes for sale.

Volunteer for helping on the day from 8:45- 12:15 are

Laura Black, Claire Frood, Vicky Day, Erin Barrie, Lorraine Dick, Anne Coubrough, Jenni Smith, Nicole Wilson, Bronwen Aidoo, Ina Marshall. Extra helpers are welcome. School will arrange the timetable and it will take place in the Gym hall with use of the mill suite tables. Maximum cost of 2 pounds. Nicola will arrange float. Laura thanked the subcommittee for their help and the volunteers for their time.

### **Defibrillator fundraiser**

Thanks to Vicki Epton for arranging the GoFundMe fund raiser which reached its target at £2010.00. £1921 has been transferred to the school and £78.64 was taken in fees.

### **Parents Evening Refreshments 21<sup>st</sup> November**

The meeting discussed pros and cons of asking for donations for refreshments at the parents evening. It was agreed to go ahead with providing refreshments, with 2 parent helpers being sought at each time to cover the event from 3 pm to 8 pm. Voluntary

donations will be requested with a donation bucket and any remaining biscuits can be sold. The meeting advised that the fact that donations are being collected should be shared with the information sent out regarding the parents' evening. Volunteers include Fiona Barr, Vicky Day, Kayley Girvan and Bronwen Aidoo. The details will be finalized by email.

### **Newsletter**

Laura will prepare a newsletter to advise the wider parent forum of the fundraising completed and the benefits to the school. It was suggested that the information regarding what funds are used for can also be shared in the monthly SWAY.

### **Active Agenda**

A parent submitted a concern to the active agenda raising the issue of cost of the school day and that there has been several requests since the start of term and this could be putting families under pressure. The parent suggested that fundraising be staggered through the year.

The meeting agreed there have been additional requests this year with the defibrillator fundraiser, but this is a one-off event and was time sensitive due to lack of the item. It was also completed out with school in terms of the go fund me. The grow a one pound challenge was completed by the school and the one pound was provided and there was no pressure to participate. The school has also ensured that any request for funds such as for the pantomime has had a message stating that funding could be provided if necessary.

The biscuits, photos, Christmas cards were all voluntary options to pay for goods. This fundraising has meant that 50 % of the panto has been funded by Parent council and this may help families avoid having to pay for going to a panto as a family.

The meeting also felt that events funded by parent council like the pantomime and summer treat and gift sale allow for enhanced learning and give children additional options to participate in the community. The parent council will consider this over the remainder of the year.

Mrs White will finalise the participatory budget vote on her return to school.

The school was encouraged to share the bags of hope campaign at Tesco that will be running until January to encourage school supporters to vote for Robert Owen with their tokens.

Next meeting will be on Zoom on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 19:00

Meeting closed at 20:05 Compiled by Bronwen Aidoo.