Cambusbarron Primary Parent Council Minutes Thursday 3rd October 2024 - Online Meeting

In attendance:

Mark Hill

Danielle Smith

Farrah Bett

Lisa Nicol

Emma Archibald

Laura Robertson

Tracey Miller

Toni Swain

Claire Squires

Jennifer Haggerty

Kieran Mieklejon

Jennifer Fraser

Nicola McFadden

Fiona Morran

Carla D

Agenda Item	
1.	FREG Update
	Summer Fayre raised £2480.
	Shed installed to store FREG items and the pre loved uniform Keys held by Lisa Nicol and Moira Smith
	Halloween Disco planned Tuesday 29 October p2-4 starts at 6pm and p5-7 at 7.30. £3 flat fee includes snack, drink, sweetie, lucky dip bag, photo booth, DJ and games. Aim to keep costs minimal so affordable. Aim for event to break even. Parent helpers required.
	Christmas Fayre Saturday 30th November 11am-2pm in the community center. Bookings for stalls now open.
	Chirstmas Hamper appeal will run on Friday 8th November along side Dress Down Day.
	Funding applied for via Cambusbarron Community Council to update equipment in playground and bids to be submitted via micro grants scheme to support Numeracy E learning resources thanks to Jennifer Heggarty and Anne Finlayson for supporting this.

Treasurers update

Thanks to Richard who has continued to support until AGM when Kieran Mieklejohn will take over as Treasurer.

Current Statement:

£2900 in bank account £2470 planned expenses if approved (see below) Noted that the Christmas and Summer fayres bring in approx £4000 (total)

Micro grants to be applied for as discussed above.

Requests from primary management to support;

P1 Halloween Party
Education Resources
Seesaw subscription £730 x 2 years = £1460
Heinemann Maths = £730
Times Tables Rockstars used by p2-7 = £170
In Motion Works - Health & Wellbeing resource = £235
PE Equipment Refresh = £400

Parent Question - How are subscriptions reviewed to ensure value?

MH gave an explanation of the Quality Assurance process among the staff team to measure the impact on learning and teaching. Noted that the packages were a useful tool in assessing achievement and used as a core component in curriculum for Maths and Numeracy.

Parent question - Have other platforms been considered. If spend on the ones discussed is approved how do we know they are best value?

MH outlined that there were other platforms but they all come with a cost. The benefit of the platforms used are assessed regularly by the teaching team.

Parent Question - Is having a reading subscription an option? Eg previously had access to Oxford Owl.

MH update that a review of the current reading programme was planned for next term. Survey will gather feedback from all stake holders parents, pupils and teachers. Noted that some parents were keen for physical reading books to go home.

Parent Question - If Parent Council don't approve funding these resources what would happen, did the school have access to other funds?

MH explained that the school fund had not been topped up in recent years - due to cost of living the school did not want to detract from FREG in fund raising activities. However recognised that they need to explore other revenue streams

eg Grants, Lottery Funds. New SLA Mrs Chrichton has a fundraising background and happy to help work with a member of the Parent Council to explore options.

- 3. Update on plans for Seven Sister Money and school building improvements
 - Courier Article Suggests Capacity School at 87% and breach 80%.

MH advised school not operating at capacity at current time. Outlined the class make up process and discussion that takes place with Council, noted that part of the planning must ensure space at all stages. Currently there is space in every year group and the building has capacity to create an 11th class if required. Class numbers must align with Scottish Government rules which are the same across the country. The school would never reach the stage of too many children in a class. Procedures in place - a class cannot go above maximum capacity, for example a placing request could be refused.

ACTION - Mark Hill TO REQUEST CLARIFICATION OF THE FORMULA USED TO CALCULATE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN THAT WILL COME FROM THE DEVELOPMENT AND THE CURRENT FORECASTED SCHOOL ROLL IN COMING YEARS.

2. Seven Sisters Development Investment

MH asked Bryony Monaghan and Aileen More for an update in advance of the meeting.

Summary of update:

Council continues to track actual numbers of pupils from the new development v the modeled numbers. Currently 1 pupil higher than prediction at this stage.

Construction company will pay a total of £5.4m when works fully complete, money is paid in 4 phases but cannot be accessed in part until completion of the final house.

Further consideration would not start until 2025/2026 at earliest, and would involve taking account of pupil projection numbers, any plans would be in conjunction with colleagues such as infrastructure and assets and would need to be approved by elected members.

Noted that money from the developer must be used for Cambusbarron Primary School.

Parent Question - What happens to the interest from the money already

drawn down in the meantime? Should the school not benefit from this?

ACTION - Mark Hill TO REQUEST A SINGLE ITEM AGENDA IN PERSON MEETING WITH EDUCATION AND ESTATES/ASSETS REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS PLANS, INCLUDING OUTLINE THE PROCESS THAT WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN TO CONSIDER THE SPEND OF THE DEVELOPER FUNDING. REASSURANCE THAT THE MONEY WILL COME TO CAMBUSBARRON.

ACTION - Mark Hill TO SHARE PRESENTATION FROM PREVIOUS MEETING.

3. Maintenance of existing building

MH explained there is a maintenance budget associated with the school this falls into 2 parts - Planned budget and response budget

Examples this term of planned maintenance carried out:

Fixed bikeshed at nursery
Nursery trees cut back
Tyre play installation on pitch and sconed one planned
Removed damaged shed
Upstairs pupil toilets refreshed
Drains cleared in car park and at nursery
Daily mile path maintenance
Painting works internally including P4 classroom was repainted

Also Planned ...
Replace Door to Boiler room
Wooden walk way near to the school office to be replaced.

Parents raised their frustration that much of the maintenance is a sticking plaster on an aging building work and that compare to some schools feels like Cambusbarron is forgotten about constantly left waiting on the outcome of the developers but with no firm commitment.

MH outlined the annual audit that is completed by SC estates/ assets team and how works and repairs are prioritised based on this.

Parent Question - Is there any transparency about grading of buildings and the reports prepared by assets? It was suggested that sight of this may help the parent body understand why one area is prioritised over another.

ACTION - Mark Hill TO FIND OUT OF THERE IS PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION THAT WOULD RESPOND TO THIS POINT

4.	Reading and Literacy for P1-3
	As noted above full review with all stakeholder parents, pupils and teachers planned for post October Break - this will inform the way forward. Desire for physical reading books noted.
	Parent Question - In the short term to help parents determine reading levels and choose books to read with their child at home could a reading list be provided.
	Noted that the library has lots of resources and can offer help.
	ACTION - Danielle Smith - ADVICE TO BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT PARENTS WITH HOME READING CHOICES.
5.	Remainder of Parent rep questions
	Noted some questions presented where probably not a matter for Parent Council but could be addressed to specific class teacher via SeeSaw
	P1 - Soap - soap level checked daily by cleaning team. Janitors can refill. Also soap in classrooms so children can always access handwashing.
	P1 - Halloween party communication has been issued from class teacher.
	P2 - Access to outdoor PE - Yes they have PE specialist one morning a week - recent focus ball skills some lessons indoors and some outdoors depending on weather and ground conditions All classes encouraged outdoor where possible.
	P3 - Reading pilot - MH was unsure about this question and suggested a conversation with class teacher in first instance as fet there may be some crossed wires.
	P3 - Grass/ mud at side of class room - Janitor looking to improve drainage. Janitor to report back. Main door could be used if needed in wet weather until works take place.
	P3 - Toilet manners and behavior - Mrs Smith spoke to children about this. New toilet roll dispensers to be installed. Safe Responsible and Respectful. Continued message to young people to feed back to adult if needed.
6.	Further School Updates
	School priorities will be shared in news letter and on school website along with ongoing feedback;

3 Key Themes

- 1. Raise attainment in literacy, reading, writing and spelling
- 2. Children leading learning how we support them to identity their strengths
- 3. Inclusive Cambusbarron looking at how to be inclusive in developing understanding of neurodiversity and the environment, resources, nurture spaces and positive relationship policy.

7. Nursery Update

Staff update - Amy on Mat leave, will be looking to fill the post.

Toni has returned as Principal and other staff have returned to their substantive roles.

Staff have undertaken visits to other settings to look at environment and an audit has been undertaken with key changes inside and out. Already notice positive impact on learners.

Introduced Wheely Wednesday - any child can come with bike and do play and pedals games.

After October Martin from local community reuse hub will do woodwork with learners.

Siblings stay and play sessions to be reintroduced by popular demand.

Gemma has completed forest kindergarten, now planning regular woodland sessions.

Some of the trees near nursery on Wood land side are marked an unsafe. During removal a temporary access route to the nursery will be needed.

8. Proposed Mural between upper and lower playground

Parent family member has offered to paint a mural. Agreed great idea and keen to involve pupils. Suggestion of a kids competition and involve the pupils in design.

Noted the Walls is not smooth. Metal sheds also suggested as a canvas if smooth surface was needed.

ACTION - PARENT CONTACT TO REACH OUT TO SCHOOL TO DISCUSS FURTHER.

	Playground markings refresh was paused due to the potential of school building works but agreed this should be revisited.
9	AOB
	None
10.	Next Meeting:
	AGM - 14th November 2024
	Next Scheduled Meeting - 6th February 2025