

Dunblane Primary School Parent Council Meeting
Thursday 28th September 2017

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting (25th May 2017)
3. Actions from previous minutes
4. Treasurers Update
5. Head-Teacher Update
6. Fundraising Group Update
7. Maintenance / Upgrading the playgrounds especially drainage of P1/2 area & around the outside of the gym hall
8. Forthcoming AGM - Office Bearers Intentions
9. Fair Funding in Schools
10. Correspondence
11. AOB
12. Date of Future Meetings

1. Welcome & Apologies

Present:

Emma Carter (Secretary)

Helen McLean

David Williams (Treasurer)

Shirley Gallivan (Depute)

Susan Morris (Parent)

Morag Sorbie (Member)

Andrew Buchanan (Parent)

Alison Webster (Parent)

Annie Crozier (Chair)

Joanna Falconer (Vice-Chair)

Ruth Allan (Depute)

Jill Hosking (Acting Head)

Diane Leithead (Parent)

Donna Smith (Member)

Ewan Marshall (Parent)

Apologies:

Brydie McLearnon

2. **Approval of Minutes:** Approved.

3. Actions from Previous Minutes:

Volunteers. Decision made that the new list of volunteers from the Meet the Teacher evening will be used. David to pass the drafted letter to Helen who would organise.

Dishwasher still to be fitted due to plumbing and joinery work. Shirley to chase.

Emma contacted the SPTC regarding a session in the school. The only requirements are that there is a minimum of 10 people and we provide refreshments. Other schools in the cluster could be invited too. Ruth to ask St Mary's and Newton Primary to see if they would be interested and if they are interested obtain a series of dates that would suit all.

Online bank account update: After further investigation this is not easy to set up. Diane did state that it is a horrendous to set up but is worth it. David to try again and feedback before the next meeting.

Curriculum evening: Ruth fed back that for the Meet the Teacher evening the current P7 teachers put together a pack containing information of the planned curriculum and this was handed out to parents. Donna fed back that this was very informative and it was really detailed.

4. Finance Report: Account Summary as @ 23rd September;

Profit last year was £9,632.80

We increased the balance by £5,039.49

The balance is now £15,921.12

David suggested that we look at spending circa £10k.

Trialling the online payment for Cauliflower cards. To be revisited if does not work.

Martin Roberts agreed to sign off the accounts ready for October AGM.

5. Head-Teacher's Update: See Appendix 1.

In addition;

- Shirley spoke about using the sunshine room for growth mind-set as well as developing a club in the school for this purpose.
- Diane added that the issue regarding the flooding in the playground has been going on for so long and it seems that they've never got to the bottom of it. Morag then brought up the emails and correspondence that Polly Mcpherson had had with regard to the flooding. Emma brought up the corner of the gym (at the bottom of the path leading from the back gate) and particularly the mud that is lying there. Jill said she would speak to Mr G.
- Shirley stated that she'd been working closely with Ann-Marie Sinclair, Sarah Corser, (Head Gardener at Cromix) and David Booth who did the work at the High School. There is also someone visiting from Royal Highland Education Trust to work with 4 classes on Monday 2nd October. Sarah has devised a plan for the school to improve and extend the garden/planters by using a poly-tunnel etc. similar to the High School. The whole cost is £5,900. If the School manage to secure 1st place in the Tesco charity award (£4,000) then would it be possible for the Parent Council to fund the balance. The Parent Council agreed to this if £2000 or under. If more, then agreement would need to be sought again. Shirley stated that they are looking to start in January. Diane mentioned the security of this area. The pirate ship in the nursery was vandalised and repair so often that it was taken down. Will the garden area go the same way? Shirley stated that they wasn't that much damage that could but will check with the High School to see if they have had problems. Shirley also to email the plans to Emma to put out with the minutes.
- Jill asked if money could be available for investing in group novels for the P4 year upwards. An audit still needs to be done and would get back to us. However Andrew brought up for the Parent Council to agree now otherwise the current P7 would not get the benefit. Parent Council will give £3.5k towards this.
- Ruth asked regarding digital technology. Rocket Fund are an organisation that match the money the school will spend on this. The school need to look at what they would like. Several people suggested Raspberry Pies and associated gadgets. David suggest the Parent Council give £2k towards this.
- David asked regarding the pantomime funding and class floats. Jill stated that the Pantomime are coming to the school this year. Parent Council to fund a snack

per child - £250. The Parent Council will fund the class floats again this year. In total there are 19 classes so the Parent Council have agreed to give £1k towards this.

- David brought up Parentmail. This is not due this year but Ruth has asked the School App company to get in contact in 18 months as the School App is considerably cheaper. Doune, St Mary's, Callandar and other schools are using it.
- Parent Council decided to ring-fence £2k towards another touch screen. The total cost per screen is £4k so the school would need to pay the balance. However, if funds become available during the year, the Parent Council would fund the total.
- Playground equipment and trolleys to be looked at throughout the year. Shirley has put an order via the Sainsbury voucher scheme and this is awaited. Shirley to send David the details of the order.

6. Fundraising Group Update:

- Dates are set for the year and Save the Date email set out.
- Jo suggested that the Drop off Drop In session be more structured ie have a topic. Jill stated that she didn't want the sessions to become like the Parent Council forum. Donna suggested a session once a month with cooking provided from the kitchen? One question raised was whether there was an appetite for this?
- Jill asked if she could be brought up to speed with how the Halloween party will look like. Jo to meet with Jill.

7. Maintenance / Upgrading the playgrounds especially drainage of P1/2 area & around the outside of the gym hall

Covered in Headteacher Update.

8. Forthcoming AGM - Office Bearers Intentions

Annie as Chairperson will be stepping down. Need to send out Parentmail to try and encourage new members. Emma to look for the blurb that Annie sent and to look for a copy of the Constitution. Diane said that she had a hardcopy and would get a copy to Emma if needs be. Jo and Emma to look at generating Parentmail regarding the forthcoming AGM and what the role of an Office Bearers is.

Emma mentioned that the Parent Council section on the School webpage is out of date (last minutes Oct 2015). Ruth to look at updating.

9. Fair Funding in Schools

Discussions had regarding the information in the survey. Some slight confusion over Option 1 as this is currently how it works. However, Andrew put forward that this proposal mean that all the local authorities would revert to a national funding formula. At present, every local authority has a right to have their own. If this changes to 'one model for all' some authorities / schools might advantage / disadvantage others. Decision made for individuals to complete survey and submit. Click [here](#) to access the survey.

10. Correspondence: Several emails from SPTC which have been forwarded.

11. AOB:

12. Dates of Future Meetings:

19th October 2017 (AGM) - Let already in.

18th January 2018

22nd March 2018

24th May 2018

Emma to put the Lets in.

Appendix I

HT Report for Parent Council Meeting. September 2017

Staffing Update:

- New staff this session: Mrs Hosking (Acting HT), Mr Dick & Miss Whillans (probationer teachers), Miss Hutton & Mrs Houston (RCCT cover teachers), Mrs Annan & Miss Earles (SLAs)
- Mrs Jo Jones has been with us 2 days a week, as an additional part of the budget, to allow DHTs out of class whilst I settled into DPS. That ends at Oct holidays. However using part of Pupil Equity Funding she will still be with us 1 ½ days going forward to allow Mrs Stevenson and Mrs Allan out of class to work on PEF targets.
- Currently recruiting for an SLA for the nursery, to be part of team over lunchtimes

SMT remits:

- Jill – P3, P4 & P4/5
- Ruth – P5-P7
- Shirley – Nursery –P2

PT remits:

- Vicky – includes: citizenship, Eco schools, website
- Faye – includes: House system development, book week, Growth Mindset
- Rachel – includes: Health and Wellbeing, sport and Active Stirling

School Improvement Plan/Standards and Quality report:

- Completed documents will go on our website by the end of the week.
- Key themes were shared at Meet the Teacher event:

School:

Effective use of assessment

Universal and targeted support, including closing the attainment gap between the least and most disadvantaged children

Digital Literacy

Learning Community:

Health and Wellbeing, including Growth Mindset/resilience, family learning

Leadership at all levels, including moderation and improvement methodology

School Environment update:

- Planned work for Oct holiday – painting of middle stairs and lower corridor/cloakroom area; repairs and paintwork to outside of front entrance; painting of entrance foyer
- P1/2 playground flooding – an engineer has reviewed the situation and verbally confirmed that works will be required to the drains in the playground. Information regarding what will be done and when will follow.
- New book display units and role play equipment purchased for younger classes from school budget.
- Plan to replace 2 of the older interactive whiteboards with new touchscreen versions from school budget.

Feedback on PEF consultation with parents at Meet the teacher evening:

- Parents were asked to indicate their first priority from a choice of 4 options for spending our PEF
1. Encouraging children's resilience through use of the Growth Mindset approach (36 stickers)
 2. Providing extra input for groups of children *just below* where they need to be with learning (23 stickers)
 3. Supporting the wider achievement of all children (13 stickers)
 4. Providing support for some children's transitions into school in the morning. (4 stickers)

The highest priority was given by parents to the development of children's resilience through Growth Mindset. Therefore, we have arranged staff training shortly, and Mrs Hislop is going to lead on introducing the language of Growth Mindset across the school. There will also be a chance for parents to learn more about it later in the session.

The other 3 options are all going to be addressed over the session too, as part of the focus for PEF as directed by Scottish Government must be closing the gap between our most and least disadvantaged children, and we believe all 3 options will help us to do this too.

Possible funding plans for discussion at meeting:

- Significant amount of investment needed in group novels, as what we have is rather dog-eared and needing refreshed and augmented
- Poly tunnel etc.
- Playground play equipment and trolleys