

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting Tuesday 22nd March 2022

Present: A Whitfield, D Lobban, S Sargent, L Wisely, L Gospel, B Redmond, S Smith, C , K Stewart, L Timmins, J Reid, K Kinloch, Cllr P Gibb, G Massie, C Davys, L Robertson, Cllr G Blackett, E Walker

Chairpersons update:

Lots of fundraising has been going on - thanks to all for organising.

Sarah is going to be standing down due to a lot of other commitments. Therefore if anyone is keen to take the role on then. Becki has kindly agreed to step up as acting chair meantime.

Headteacher update:

Staffing issues: Covid impact – since Christmas there have been several staff cases. As a result had to ask several children from the resource hub to stay at home. Unfortunately, there are still some children at home as they are not able to be supported adequately with the levels of staffing. The school are trying to keep all classes at school but have been close to having to send a class home due to staffing levels. Request call for patience and understanding during this challenging time.

There is a lead practitioner opening for nurse.

Interviews take place next week for Mrs Walmsly and Miss Wittons' posts

2 PSA posts also

Drains works have been completed. Car park lighting has also been

Toilet refurb is about to start during the Easter holidays and will run into summer term. The community resource hub upgrade will then begin. Working closely with M Foy and A Priest to allow comm hub children to access secondary school hub resources. Will be working closely with the children's parents. So, by August – there will be an upgraded comm hub and toilets.

Parent pods haven't been able to get going for multiple reasons. Looking for suggestions for topics.

Reporting Going to be done differently this year. Child led reporting. See Mrs Lobban's comments below.

Capacity: 33 P1s due to start next year. So potentially 1 full class and a composite. Currently looking therefore at 10 classes, possibly 11. Will be requesting "additionality" but it may be that authorities don't fund 10 teachers. It would be comfortable at 10 classes but 11 would allow for more incoming children.

DHT: D Lobban

Reporting: Current format not particularly time effective and doesn't necessarily give the fullest of reflections. They think the profiling may be more useful in the future but currently not ready to be used for reporting purposes.

This year's format: teacher and child have a conversation about things they are good at/proud of and things that could be improved. Hopefully this format is more organic. Literacy, numeracy, H&WB, Learning across curriculum, School values, Best bits of current year, what my family thinks. They will also be conveying targets, curriculum for excellence levels etc.

Mrs Lobban is looking to recruit parents for a focus group for her inter headship course for which she is writing an essay.

Miss Stewart has also been accepted for middle leadership course.

Geva Blackett: Paul is standing down as councillor so this will be his last meeting. Many thanks to Paul on behalf of the school.

Treasurer report:

£16500 bank balance £11300 allocated. £1186 remaining from the winter festival funds,

Playground £9600 ringfenced

Coop money: £250 – needs to be spent.

£5000+ remaining in the bank. Only 2 classes have put in claims for their £150. So £1800 still sitting for use for class trips, experiences etc. Nursery £360, CRH £240 proportionately allocated.

Calculators for P7's still to come off.

£3000 remaining in the bank so this covers next years commitments.

Speakers have been bought and delivered to the school. Needs to be tried out.

Julie only has one term left before she leaves. Call for someone to take over.

Playground update

Brief chat with Komplan 2 weeks ago: Komplan aware of funding challenges. Application has gone to Arnold Clark for £1000. Application in progress to Tesco. Application also in progress to Awards for all.

As a committee, agreed to put as many applications in as possible this year and then reassess where we are at. To apply to wind farms.

Fundraising update

Good run of fundraising

Tea towels raised almost £900. A few left over. Will advertise on FB.

Bingo night - postponed till this Friday. 77 tickets sold.

Scholastic book fair: 20 parent orders. £354 worth of orders so raised £71

Book sale at Coop - £202 - thanks to Gemma

Considering a **disco** at the end of term

Push "**easy fundraising**" – very simple

To consider who is taking over **rag bags** when Mrs W leaves?

Accelerated reader: Parent council – consider any child reaching a million words or excelling in comprehension could they get a certificate or even book token at the end of the year.

School website

No links working presently

Website is something we need to develop further. Could be a place to show case the school but not particularly useful as primary mode of communication. Further down priority list currently in terms of ability to commit staff time to. Could this be something that PC could input into. Lynn has said she would be happy to look at that.

AOCB

Currently there may be several modes of communication. Email is the primary mode of communication so will always be used for essential information.

Seesaw is returning. Not allowed to use it as a parent to teacher communication, to be used for profiling only.

Safer routes:

Cllr Gibb: Meeting with Directors of Marr area committee today. Ongoing lists of things to do will be passed on.

Drop curb is in the 2022 work plan which starts from April. Single white line will go at this drop curb ASAP. (Opposite St Thomas church woods and the new path)

Pedestrian crossing –procurement of parts is underway and final design is being approved. Hopefully April and May once paint can go down (i.e., once grit sand cleared for this year). Paul also went round Aboyne with roads team – looking at road markings needing repainted. Some are already priority round the car park etc but some other areas around the school could do with redoing.

Junior road safety officers Miss Stewart: hoping to get this off the ground. P5 will be leading this – hoping to go into classes this week. Small application form and then they have someone appointed before the holidays.

Training starting next term for upper stages P5,6,7 **cycling proficiencies** so they can teach the younger ones. Could tie in with Road safety officer. 1 parent space to fill to help with this.

AOCB:

Thank you Sarah from us all.

Nursery staff: look to have a member of nursery staff at parent council meetings. This would likely help with nursery feeling more included. A parent had expressed that they didn't feel particularly included. Is it worth speaking to Christine Mclennan as nursery is slightly different so should we discuss with her re inclusion in PCA proportions etc. Budgets are different etc.

Consider gifts etc.

Thanks to the school, organisers and parent helpers for the ski trip. Was very successful and kids thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Next meeting: TBC.