

Parent council meeting

19/05/21

7-8pm on teams

Present:

Sam Rutherford, Rachel King, Susan Cochrane, Claire Haggett, Carys Macdonald, Donna McGuire, Angela Broom, Jolanda Van Munster, Gillian Turner, Bryony Grisewood, Emma Jamieson, Mary Ann Masson, Susan Brislin, Bethan, Nicky Macdonald

Welcome

Sam welcomed everyone

No apologies

Treasures report:

CURRENT FUNDS			FUNDS AVAILABLE	
Assets	Bank Balance on 19/05/21	£5,815.84		
	Monies banked after statement date	£0.00		
	P7 2020 Yearbook	£435.00		
	Uncleared cheques	£0.00		
	Christmas ParentPay Fundraiser	£1,441.00		
	Total	£7,691.84	Liabilities Cumulative	Remaining Balance
Liabilities	Uncashed Cheques	£40.00	£40.00	£7,651.84
			£40.00	£7,611.84
			£40.00	£7,611.84
			£40.00	£7,611.84
	Less sinking fund	£2,000.00	£2,040.00	£5,611.84
TOTAL LIABILITIES		£2,040.00		
	Balance available to spend			£5,611.84

Fundraising:

Any ideas/suggestions, this year has been tricky, but we would like to start raising funds again. A fundraising sub group would be a great thing to have.

Carys has applied to and paid the council for the licence so that we can hold a raffle but has not received the licence yet.

There was a discussion around if we could hold a raffle anyway.

If we have not received an actual live licence, we would not be able to pre-print the cash raffle tickets, as the printers need to have the current licence.

Action Carys going to investigate how easy it would be to get tickets without the licence

Bryony wondered if a quiz would be held again?

We need a solid list of some things we could peruse before the end of term, so we can start the next year with some fundraising.

Parent council applied and got money for a fund for the garden, see below.

Since the meeting two fundraising ideas have come in:

Claire Haggett has suggested class group photos as a fundraising idea – **Action** Claire's getting in touch with Susan about this.

A fundraising idea for a family photo shoot from venture photography. **Action parent council to follow up.**

Headteacher's report.

Susan wanted it noted that:

Epic days of primary 7 were wonderful, it wasn't Benmore, but the current P7 were a credit to themselves and were just brilliant.

Please see the attached report for this section, although there are some added bits below that follow Susan's slides.

Staff

Some staff are undertaking a 12 hour nurture programme on Friday afternoons.

Staff are doing a lot of work around anti-racism, unconscious bias and what an anti-racist curriculum would look like.

Primary 1&2 have been working with the Green Team. The Green Team are an outdoor learning group that work for the council (sports and outdoor learning). They organised the 'Epic days' for p7 and are running small nurture groups for us at the moment too, it is not free. Tapping into a covid recovering fund for this.

P3 are getting extra help with self-regulating emotions.

P7 have been doing John Muir award.

Curriculum reform

Teachers have been thinking how they can make class novels more diverse, for example different cultures, nationalities

Looking for parent input for the curriculum reform, see Headteacher's report 'Curriculum reform and design' the school will be asking for feedback from parents around this.

Susan is looking for advice from parents of what would work and how best to engage the school community. Susan is aware that everyone is so busy, she doesn't want to add to people's pressures. **Action All** - contact Susan if you are interested or have particular ideas or idea of particular challenges that might arise.

So exciting and positive to be looking at this area.

Action Sam – to get the groups started would be great.

Action All - Outdoor learning we would love a group from the parent council/school community to lead on this

Outdoors

Edible fruit forest in the wild garden is to be planted with the grant the parent council secured.

Gates are about to fitted to make the back area more secure.

Planters have reached the end of their life.

Fundraising drive for the outdoor area.

Grace MC has organised a fundraising walk, we might need 4 parents per class to accompany the sponsored walk, **Action** tbc

Staff leavers:

Mandy Doherty, school administrator is on secondment for a year from 28/05/21,

Linda Paul, retiring form the nursery

Ms Williamson (current P6a teacher), is moving to Frogston

Mr Marquez (current PE teacher) is moving to Liberton High School.

Unfortunately, due to less pupils coming into the school the budget cannot sustain the staff, this is sad news but both teachers are moving to really positive posts.

The teaching of PE will happen from class teachers and the active school co-ordinator is going to help. The school will try links like Abercorn tennis club too.

Is there an update on composite classes for 21/22?

We are planning classes in line with staffing formula that we were given, as mentioned in February parent council the classes will look like this:

P1	P3	P5A/P5B
P2/1	P4/3	P6A/P6B
P2	P4	P7A/P7B

New teachers/classes for 21/22 will be announced 2nd last week before the summer term end. A lot of thought goes into who will go into which class. Late because things can still change, council have guided schools to proceed in this way. The school will do a 'meet your new teacher' of some sort before the end of term.

New P1 meeting - wed 9th June 7pm

Music

Youth music innovative are delivering music to some of the school.

P4 started last week

P3 have started

Parent Council roles:

We currently have:

Sam Goudie- coordinator for the PC website (all ideas please get in touch)

Gill and Ed MacArthur - gardening and grounds support (if you have anything to donate or would like to know more please contact the school). There has been interested from parents, so if you would like to be part of a group please contact Susan Cochrane.

Claire Haggett and Arabella – second-hand uniform collection and distribution (aiming to run some distribution dates over the coming weeks in the playgrounds)

We also would like-

Small group to support grounds work for the school

Library support as the library reopens

Fundraising group

Please contact Susan Cochrane if interested in any of the above.

On the Parent Council we have-

Emma Bartlett, secretary- who would like to share the role this coming year as she will be stepping down in June 2022.

An offer for taking on role of Treasurer- current Treasurer Carys Macdonald will be stepping down in June 2021

We still require-

Chair/Co-Chairs, as both Sam Rutherford and Rachel King will be stepping down from the role in June 2021 (Rachel will still be around and is very happy to support any new chair or co-chairs)

Vice chair - there is no one in this role currently

Below is a brief description of the roles:

Chair - be present at the 6 meetings, facilitate discussion, ensure actions are noted and followed up. Meet with head and leadership team to talk through current priorities. Support

parents to get involved and to bring forward ideas for fundraising etc. Average 4-8 hours per month.

Vice Chair- to support the chair in the above. Often takes on the role of Chair having been vice chair. 2 hours per month.

Secretary- take action notes and minutes at meetings. Send out agenda. 2 hours per month.

Treasurer- keeps overview of accounts. Ensures payments made and received. Signs cheques etc. Supports fundraising ideas. Liaises with school re budgets and priorities. 5 hours per month

We have had interest in the role for treasurer and are hopeful others will come forward.

Chair: Sam and Rachel have shared this role. Sam has enjoyed shaping it, working with a team, Liz Creelie handed it over to Sam brilliantly and gave her confidence. Sam and Rachel would do the same for the new chair.

Treasure's role is very easy, online now, if you can read a spreadsheet, and do online banking you can do it. It would be great to have someone soon as we need to change signatories.

Secretary this role is very easy, you just need to be happy to take minutes at the 6 meetings a year. You don't need to be a pro as you can see from these minutes! It is a great way to feel part of a team.

6 meetings a year

Please contact Sam Rutherford (Co-Chair): sammyfraser@hotmail.com

Rachel King (Co-Chair): kingrachelf@hotmail.com

Carys Macdonald (Treasure): carys.macdonald@blueyonder.co.uk

Emma Bartlett (Secretary): ejmurray2004@yahoo.co.uk

Susan Cochrane: susan.cochrane@parsonsgreen.edin.sch.uk

To get voted on you just need to come along to the AGM on Wednesday 16th June

AOB

Start of the school day

Rachel has 3 kids at the school, 3 different entrances. It has been so well thought through. It works well now that they have a particular entrance and are greeted individually, each noted and recognised. That for the little ones that they have a soft start to the day. The school have made it less daunting and it has worked really well and as we go back to our new reality Rachel wished the school would continue it in some way in the future. No big bell or 'you are late!'

Some other people agreed.

Susan says staff have enjoyed the approach too and are not planning on going back to bells.

End of the day

Susan asked for any suggestions for the end of the day

Sports day

Guidance about sports day: have to have as a class and aren't allowed to have parents

Susan thanked everyone for their commitment to the parent council, it is lovely, thank you for being a lovely bunch of people, please encourage people to come along.

Wednesday 16th June AGM – all welcome.