

Parent council meeting minutes 6/12/22

1. *Review actions from last meeting:*

Parking around the school – PC will not take this forward

Roles that need filled on the parent council:

- Someone to look for and apply for grants – to remain with treasurer, help appreciated
- Treasurer to change at next AGM
- Chair to change at next AGM (jobs include meeting links, agenda)

Meeting format for next year termly zoom meetings, face to face AGM, face to face first term meeting to plan objectives.

Next Steps for PC after last meeting:

Follow up to this meeting as reqd online

Grants: Colin will look into what's available

Parental engagement: Doug

The fence: Karen

2. No update on woodlands board, hall is viable, pitch is at capacity, hall is well used.
3. Up-coming projects for PC:
 - a. Painting the fence, proposal is not to go ahead with this project. Reasons: railings are galvanised so flaking paint is only cosmetic. Also risk of unskilled painters ending up making the fence look worse.
4. Communication school to parent body: Doug proposed a parent survey to see if the parent body feels there is a communication deficit or not to warrant working on. Ms McLintock provided feedback from parents night: 51% of families had no suggested improvements for school. 44% wanted face to face appointments. 31% of parents were happy with communication as is. 18% of parents liked twitter. 15% liked spotlight jotters. What parents want improved: 2% want information on one platform, 1% wanted more opportunities for coming into school, 1% wanted termly overview on teams. Any actions from feedback from parents nights: can't go through one channel (teachers do twitter, management manage app, clerical team manage email). The only reliable method of communicating with all parents is email (text also but is expensive). Action on communication: Doug intends to liaise with Ms McLintock about a survey to parents to see if there are improvements or changes in communication that are desired by parents.
5. Bikeability update (Judith): first session was delivered to P5 before summer, after summer Bikeability had received national funding and could be delivered without parent volunteers in school time so school have taken over management of the scheme. Update from Ms McLintock: Bikeability will be rolled out across whole local authority. Bikes will be supplied if reqd, will be done in school time. Will be rolled out to all P6 and P7s.

Bikeability

- Great news from Bikeability
- In May next session, all P6 and P7 will have Bikeability training in school and Bikeability will supply the bikes for any kids who need them. They'll do a revised version of Level 1. They'll do an onroad version.

Other Head Teacher update notes

- Staffing: More staff absence than usual; more pupil absence too - general illness levels are up with more social mixing.
- Pupils from the school are attending Stemposium, showcasing work the children have done on robot engineering and the Dyson Engineering programme.
- Work continuing on raising attainment in writing. CPS is working with similar schools on this. Aiming to mitigate the impact of Lockdown when kids didn't write as much.
- Children are working on social enterprises to raise funds for a defibrillator at the pitch.
- "Sustainable Heros" is continuing. Last year this work happened as classes but this year the school has been able to allow kids to mix vertically in the school. This is a real positive for the kids.
- Whole school assemblies have started again. New school certificates linked to the school values are being given.
- Be Bright, Be Seen donations have gone to charity (gifts for vulnerable families linked to the school). PTA have also donated £400 to buy extra treats for these families.
- Clubs are back on this session. X-country, Glee, Spanish, Rugby & Choir so far. Coding Club starting in January. Others happening in the new year.
- Xmas Fair was very successful. Amount raised hasn't been announced yet but feedback was very positive on the door. The PTA have donated cash to buy a new greenhouse and a pop-up bike shed & racks to go up inside the courtyard.
- The money put aside for the fence has been spent. The children asked for more toys for the playground. £9K on a 6 piece gym equipment kit - 15 kids can play on it at one time. Installation will begin in January. A site survey will go ahead in the new year to agree on the position. The school has saved £1K on VAT as they are exempt.
- £1K ear-marked for micro-bot kits. These allow the children to build moving vehicles, etc that can operate from iPads.
- Strike action: Ms M had hoped to be able to share info but the info that comes out has to come from the Authority. Head Teachers are not allowed to ask teachers what Union they are in so it's difficult to plan for strike days (different unions striking on different days).
- Pupil Equity Funding money - there's a 3 year commitment to this money. Ms M had a meeting with the Finance Officer to agree how to spend it. 12 new Apple TVs purchased - now in every classroom from P4-7 plus in the school hall and the Hive. 2 smart boards had to be replaced. Other funding includes Nessie accounts (to support spelling), new reading resources, 1 additional day per week for a Learning Support Officer. Further funds (c.£8K) still to spend.
- The school hasn't been able to access funding for the upkeep of the building for the last 2 years. There is a possibility some money will be accessible later this year. If available, it will be go to paint the exterior of the building.
- Various other clubs / extra curricular activities happening - basketball, choir giving performances, Xmas jumper day; Xmas lunch day; Nativity, Xmas concerts, P7 visits to Falkirk High, Xmas parties supported by PTA.

Question from parent:

- Does the school get a decent cut of the Scholastic Book Fair and what's done to make sure families aren't feeling pressure to buy?

Ms M and Miss Moore explained that they do get a good contribution (c.£1.7K from the last two fairs). Children have the opportunity to go and look at books across various slots in the week so the whole class doesn't do it at one time. Children aren't really aware of who's buying / who's not. There are some low cost items (stationery / bargain books).

Last item was a point Ms M raised for discussion:

How do we encourage a wider diverse group of parents onto the Parent Council?

ACTION - to be discussed at the next meeting. Everyone to consider ideas between now & then.

Karen confirmed a date would be issued for another Zoom call in the Spring term and closed the meeting.