

Parent Council meeting 24 May 23

Chair's welcome

Karen has been chair for 4 years now and is reaching the end of her term. During COVID the Parent Council (PC) took on a communication role as liaison between school and parents and facilitating communication. Looking to the future Karen hopes that it will move on to support school and the parents and kids in other ways.

Treasurer's report:

Colin has been treasurer for 5 years and is reaching the end of his term this year. Current balance in bank £1260.35. Annual admin payment from Falkirk Council of £300. This is saved in the bank account to go towards projects in the school. There have been grants awarded in the past (eg supermarket community tokens). Chairs job is balancing books and noting incoming and outgoing monies and getting booked signed off. Current signatories are Colin and Karen and intend to pass on this role. New signatories would need to go to branch with ID to confirm this. Thanks to Colin for all his work over the last 5 years.

Nominations for Chair:

- Chris McCreath, carried

Nominations for treasurer:

- Karen has reserve candidates, no nominations in meeting

Nomination for secretary:

- Reserve candidates

Woodlands update:

Background: in 2018 the council no longer had funding for the hall. This would have meant loss of the school's PE hall. The PC stepped in alongside Falkirk Football Foundation took on the running of the hall. The Council pay an annual stipend, Falkirk Foundation provide staff. Exclusive use for the school of the hall in school hours. Also 2 weekends per year reserved for the school. Board was made up of 2 from PC and 3 from Falkirk Football Foundation. Neil has negotiated a new service agreement has recently been signed which means: pitch fund will be maintained and Falkirk Community Foundation will make up any shortfall in the future. Annual report from foundation to PC. PC now has veto on changes to structure. No legal risk to PC and they are not required to sit on the board although PC can bring back this representation in future if wished. A recent grant has been given for £170,000 to refurb the hall arranged by Falkirk Community Foundation.

Communication Survey: (strike through as completed on the working form)

- 1) Content of communication (q6) could split this to subject areas with ranking from low to high. Could merge this with Q3. 4 point scale. **Subject areas to ask on:**
- 2) ~~Open comments box on Q2 (optional)~~
- 3) ~~Change 4th option in Q2 to no preference/don't use~~

- 4) Caveat at the top of request for one response per family. School to write header for form and include this and other required caveats
- 5) ~~Q2: add cost of text £60 per text~~
- 6) Question: what do you not hear about from the school that you would like to hear about. (this question need a little more thought)
- 7) ~~Question: we currently only send email to lead parent, would you like us to send email to both parents.~~
- 8) ~~Remove question 6~~

Chris will be made form owner so can move forward with future edits.

Update from the head:

Learning for sustainability: pupils will now feed in to the school improvement plan to feed into next session.

Current: standards and qualities report to be done and circulated to parents before the end of this session

School improvement plan for 23/24 being drafted. Considering coffee afternoons to garner parent input on this. Focus on literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing since COVID, are focussing on this. Current focus on writing. This fell behind during pandemic. School propose to move focus on to reading next session. Want to develop phonological awareness, plan to develop staff in this area. This should have the effect of improving writing. Are also working on play, outdoor learning and STEM. National and local authority drivers also feed in to this plan. One such driver is inclusion. Head teacher groups, school cluster groups and school neighbourhood groups also feed in to the school plan.

- Clubs in School: Choir, art clubs, STEM, Spanish, cooking, Glee, outdoor learning, coding, basketball, rugby, Rubik's cube, cross country, football to name a few. Starting next week: Dance class.
- Bikeability: big success in school. Level 1 in playground. Level 2 on street. Parents liked this. Will run again next year.
- Beat the street: Comely park were second on the leader board this week. Will result in monetary prize for school if in top 4.
- Dalgise residential trip info has gone out to parents for next session.
- Mental health awareness week last week
- World of work week: 35 parents came in to school to talk about their work.
- Transitions to primary and to high school are happening at the moment
- Report cards coming out by 9 June.
- Staffing for next session not yet confirm

Funding from PTA/Parent council: playground toys all ordered and some delivered. Launch in June. Pupils helped create the list for what was bought. A container will be sourced to store this in. recycled seating will be sourced and a company has been identified. Health and safety need to approve the purchases first. The company provide but do not install so school need to see if local authority will install this equipment. Old logs will be disposed of to make space. Target after summer holidays for this equipment being available to use.

AOCB: Children with packed lunches are not allowed to put them in the bin at school. The reasoning is sustainability/recycling. The catering staff are not allowed to wash recyclables thus

packed lunch leftovers are sent home. Recycling bins will be installed in classes in next 2 weeks. Lunch hall will be a project for future. Option under consideration is to install a sink for kids to wash their own recyclables so they can be disposed of in school. Funding would be required for this. This sink was quoted at £5000 – a target for future fund raising?