

EDENSIDE PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2015 AT 6.30PM AT EDENSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Present: Nicola Moir, Terni Jhooti, Cllr Alec Nichol, Margaret Riddell, Sue Mackie, Geraldine Keita, Jill Scott, Sheila Fleming, Angela Hinnigan, Susie Lindsay, Zoe Currie, Diana Miers, Anne Marie Bready, Eva Reader, Harriet Campbell, Jane Nimmo

Apologies: Councillor Mountford, Jill Bradshaw, Jane Woodcock, Cheryl McLean

1. Pupil Council Presentation

Mrs McLearn explained that she and Mrs Inglis assist the Pupil Council. The Pupil Council is made up of pupils from each class from P4 – P7. Pupils meet on a monthly basis and come up with the ideas and then feed back to their classes. Last year's suggestions were, for example, posters for washing hands and keeping areas clean and tidy, a new school flag and a presentation at the High School. Four members of the Pupil Council gave a presentation further explaining their role. They gave examples of suggestions that had been implemented. Football free Monday has been introduced so that the boys don't play football. This has proved positive.

They explained that they are hoping to take further suggestions forward and sought funding from Parent Council. It is hoped to repaint the basketball court and replace the nets. They are also looking to replace the rubbish bins in the playground with larger bins as the current ones do not hold all the rubbish which then blows out on windy days.

They said that to get on Pupil Council, pupils must write a letter to Mrs McLearn explaining what they could bring. There are currently 16 members and they have the option to stand down should they wish to let others have a turn. They do not fundraise as this is the role of the Charities Committee.

It is hoped that other pupil committees can attend future Parent Council meetings to explain their roles within school.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were proposed as correct by Diana Miers and seconded by Sue Mackie.

3. Head Teacher's Report

Staffing

Although the service is currently being re-aligned the school has been lucky to secure funding to appoint an extra Additional Needs Assistant. Samantha Middleton will work 15 hrs 30 minutes per week in the middle school.

Two applications have been received for the Curriculum Support Music Teacher post. This post will be shared with Westruther and Channelkirk Primary Schools.

A new Acting Head Teacher has been appointed to Kelso High School – Scott Steel.

A nice send-off was given to Rev McDonald, with the Head Boy and Girl, Depute Head Boy and Girl and Miss Nimmo holding a tea party for him. Pupils also made a book of jokes which was presented to him. Anna Rodwell is currently covering his role.

Other Matters

The Nursery had an unannounced Care Inspectorate inspection a couple of weeks ago. A very warm endorsement was given to the 3 – 5 year old nurseries. Recommendations were given for the 2 year old nursery, however this was understandable as the nursery has only been up and running for a short time.

Nursery staff will be presenting to other staff in the school about their teaching and learning experiences with Nursery age pupils.

Dalguise went very well, with pupils being commended by staff at the centre. The children grew in confidence within the space of the week. The children who didn't/weren't able to attend had a lighter programme in school and did work experience in P1 and the Nursery. Miss Bready thanked staff who went to Dalguise.

From January, pay on line will be available to parents to pay for school dinners, trips, etc. It is hoped that it will make it easier for ordering dinners. The system is already operational in the Selkirk area. An app is also being looked at for smart phones. If any parents do not have access to the internet, envelopes can still be used.

All staff have now been trained at the literacy base. Primary modern languages training for all staff took place last night.

Presentations are being given to pupils by a member of staff from Young Carers. This has proven very interesting and informative to pupils.

A site visit will take place in the next couple of weeks to look at the pupil kitchen. It is hoped that work will start on it soon.

Funding Requests

Support staff have a wish list of items that would help with teaching and learning. It is hoped to purchase audio books to match books in the literacy programme. 3 copies per title are sought. These would cost approximately £500, however the school has been able to obtain a 15% discount.

A visiting theatre company will be performing Peter Pan for the whole school. The school has paid £200 towards the cost. Parent Council were asked if consideration could be given of a donation towards the balance.

The show A Little Gentleman will be performed for the P1 – 3. The school has paid 25% of the cost and is seeking a contribution from Parent Council towards the balance.

Graphics for “Learning for Life” have been produced at a discounted rate, however vinyls are now needed, together with stickers and button badges for the younger pupils. This would be at a cost of £350.

Funding towards microphones is also still sought.

It was agreed that subsidies should continue towards parties and outings. It was noted though that parents should be made aware that Parent Council has given a contribution towards the trips.

Website

There have been over 1000 views on the website since its launch. It is still a work in progress, however diary dates, pupil zone, blog, parents area and news areas are all up and running. A gallery page has also been developed with a tab for each year group. Pieces of art work, poems, items from jotters are included. This reduces the number of letters going home and saves with copying. On checking with parents, only 10 do not currently have access to the internet.

It is now also possible to do group e-mails. This is cheaper than group-call texts which are charged per text.

Flu vaccinations

Flu vaccinations took place this week. There has been a good uptake.

Kelso Chronicles

Over 3 years, the P7s took part in the Kelso Heritage project before funding ended. Pieces of project work by Edenside pupils have been included in a new book called the Kelso Chronicles which is available from the Tourist Information.

4. Fundraising Report and Discussion

The sponsored walk raised £800 and £174.30 was raised by the dress down day. Unfortunately only 15 tickets were sold for the quiz night, therefore this had to be cancelled. Timing of the Fundraising Committee Meetings still requires reviewing. Consideration was given to holding the Fundraising Committee meetings after the Parent Council meetings.

It also needs to be determined why some events are not well supported and if the timing, type and targeting of events is perhaps wrong. It was suggested that an email could be sent, with voting buttons with options, asking parents what types of events they would like to see held.

It is hoped to perhaps run a Burns Night supper at 5.00pm – 6.00pm which may attract families. It was felt that it is good to have events that parents and children can come to together.

The assault course will be run again. The Christmas disco will be the next event.

Parents may be more supportive if they knew exactly what monies raised was being spent on. The spreadsheet detailing spend could be added to the website. The suggestion to have a totaliser on perhaps the old bike shed, displaying how much money has been raised and what the funding is going towards was felt to be a good idea.

An email to all parents explaining the role of Parent Council could also be issued.

5. Treasurers Report

There is currently £6,700 in the bank. Agreement was given by all to the expenditure on the requests proposed by Anne Marie Bready, including cameras. This will leave monies for the entrance project.

6. Chairs Report

- Cycling proficiency training will be going ahead on Saturday, with hopefully more coming up soon.
- Contacting staff and pupils whilst on trips is to be discussed.
- Queries have been raised as to why P3 does not go swimming. It was explained that slots are allocated by the pool and classes get lessons for the whole year. It was also noted that at Broomlands, classes only have a block of swimming.
- It is still hoped that the Cooking Bus will come, although it was felt by them that our car park was too small. Woodside is being considered.
- It was noted that it may not be possible to have parent volunteers on the school crossings as they would not be covered by the insurance. This is, however, still being looked into by Council. Council have also advised that we are one of very few schools which has 2 crossing patrols.
- Curriculum Overviews are now out. Feedback is welcomed on the format. Harriet Campbell believed that the new format is better.
- Harriet Campbell has spoken with Callum Kerr regarding Kelso High School. He has advised that there are problems with the funding structure. A new structure has been put forward and it is hoped that there will be news by the end of the month.

- It was explained that generally the school tries to keep family siblings in the same school houses. This has unfortunately, however, not been possible in all instances this year as it was found that in some instances in P4, there would have only been one pupil in a class in a house. It was noted that houses are not a pastoral matter as they are in high school. In primary school it is more about being with other pupils in your class in your house.

7. Drop Off and Pick Up at School

Parents were asked how they would feel if pupils who arrive between 8.45am and the bell ringing were left in the playground, rather than parents waiting until the bell rings. Some parents offered to help Playground Supervisors monitor the playground until the bell rings. Anne Marie Bready will carry out a risk assessment to establish how many adults are required and look at the security and safety. The question was raised if the warning bell could be re-instated. It was noted that the warning bell is not liked by staff.

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 20 January 2016 at 6.30pm.