

Parent Council Meeting

Held at Edenside Primary School on

Wednesday, 7 September 2016 at 6.45pm

Present: Harriet Campbell, Eva Reader, Jill Scott, Cllr Tom Weatherston, Cllr Alec Nichol, Margaret Riddell, Zoe Currie, Sue Mackie, Harriet Pattinson, Lyndsay Neill, Adrienne Gibb, Pauline Carruthers, Ginny Stewart, Sheila Fleming, Angela Hinnigan, Sara Boulton, Nicola Fleming, Diana Miers, Jane Jackson, Alison Smail, Joyce Borland, Nicola Moir, Jane Woodcock, Katie Warnock, Ailie Ramage, Kirsten Murray, Pauline Bisphum, Anne Marie Bready, Jane Nlmmo, Mhairi Jamieson

1. Apologies

Victoria Horsburgh, Cllr Simon Mountford, Gail Stewart, Lisa Bridgewater, Terni Jhooti, Cheryl MacLean

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved as correct by Sue Mackie and seconded by Jane Woodcock.

3. Head Teacher's Report

Staffing

There have been 3 retirements over the summer. Mrs Dijkman, Miss Deans and Mrs Cordiner.

Their posts were filled prior to the summer break with the new member of staff able to meet with pupils prior to the holidays. Miss Swanston and Miss McManus are still in post.

Miss Fuchik has been appointed to the 3 – 5 Nursery. Mrs Moir and Miss Fuchik are currently helping in P1 until the Nursery comes over to the school fully.

The Additional Needs Assistant hours have been increased to provide assistance to pupils who require support. These hours have been allocated to mornings to assist with literacy and numeracy.

Evelyn, cleaning supervisor has retired after many years of service to the school.

Miss Lindsay has welcomed a baby boy. Mrs Fleming is undertaking the role of Acting Principal Teacher for P1 – 3, working alongside Miss Douglas who is Principal Teacher at P4 – 7.

Interviews are to be held soon for Mrs Thomson's and Mrs Dijkman's vacancies. Mrs Morgan is currently covering Mrs Thomson's vacancy.

Lunches

Lunch times and the morning session on a Friday have been restructured, as Miss Fairbairn is no longer here on a Friday morning. This now gives 3 good sessions on a Friday morning.

New Term

There have been several new enrolments at the start of term, with more new pupils to join soon.

P1 is settling in well. The new arrangement of dropping pupils at the school gate with Ms Bready and Miss Nimmo covering in the playground is working well.

Uniform

The new P7 sweatshirt is very smart. The visiting chaplains and other visitors have praised all pupils very highly for looking so smart.

Curriculum

Numeracy is a key driver this term. Number Talk is being used where pupils look at pure numbers, rather than shape and co-ordinates, every morning. Staff have attended workshops.

French is being introduced more formally this year. All classes are doing day-to-day French, which fits in well with the daily curriculum, for example names on register. French events for all classes will be held later in the year.

Edenside is to be a partner school with a school in Selkirk for a World War I project.

Accommodation

The ICT suite is not up and running as yet. Cabling has still to be installed. It is hoped that it will be ready in a week or two.

An area for outdoor lunches is being considered. Members of Council staff will be coming tomorrow to discuss this.

New windows have been fitted throughout the school.

Pupil Office Bearers

The Head Boy/Girl and Depute Head Boy/Girl will be announced next week.

School Trips/Shows

P1's are to attend a show about road safety

Literacy Workshops

The literacy workshops are to be revamped for all stages. There will be 2 sessions, one straight after school and a further session 20 minutes after the first session has finished. Pupils can attend with parents. It is hoped that the later sessions will allow working parents time to attend.

Playground

British Bulldog is very dangerous in the playground, with pupils in tears or badly bruised. Detention has been given to pupils who have continued to play British Bulldog. All pupils have been made aware of the playground rules. Footballs are welcome but not before 9.00am as there are small children and prams around the school at this time. Footballs are OK at lunch and break times.

The grassy area by the nursery is to be the P1 playground.

School Entrance

The main gate will remain the entrance. It was asked if it would be possible to mark the main entrance better. It was agreed that this is a good idea.

Daily Mile

This is still being done by pupils, however Stirling have not yet run their Daily Mile event.

4. Treasurers Report

There is just under £3000 in the bank.

The spend last year was £5000 on the educational kitchen and a contribution of 5p per week for pupils going swimming (to cover the increase in cost from £1 to £1.05). This has been welcomed by parents and staff as it is easier than trying to find change. Gift tokens were given to the P7 leavers and book bags for the P1 pupils. Cameras have been bought for every stage in the school.

Income has been generated from the obstacle course, discos, dress down day, etc. Nicola Moir explained that an easy way of fundraising is through the shopping websites. Information regarding this will be put into the newsletter or groupcall e-mail.

Ms Bready thanked the Parent Council for the items that they had purchased/funded as without their fundraising, the school would not have been able to have these things.

5. Fundraising Report

Unfortunately, some events which were organised did not get supported and therefore had to be cancelled.

6. Future Fundraising

A list of forthcoming events has been distributed with the agenda. There has been a very committed team organising fundraising events, however new volunteers would be welcomed to help spread the load. As there are a number of upcoming events, it was agreed that there should be at least 2 volunteers to organise each event, with the support of Nicola Moir and Harriet Campbell.

The car boot sale will be the first event. All are welcome. No events will take place around Christmas or at the end of term as these are busy times.

Events and volunteers were as follows:-

Halloween Disco, 27 October	Jane Woodcock and Zoe Currie
Bingo and Promises, November	Jane Jackson (bingo caller) and Nicola Moir. Katie Warnock and Ailie Ramage offered to assist if needed.
Coffee Evening, 2 February	Harriet Pattinson and Sue Mackie. Ailie Ramage and Katie Warnock also offered to help so they could get experience of what is all involved
Spring Disco, March	Eva Reader and Diana Miers
Obstacle Course, April	Harriet Campbell will work with Miss Fairbairn
Shorts and Shades Disco, May	Ginny Stewart

Parent Council were asked if they wished to do Christmas Cards this year. This has not been done for a few years as it involves quite a lot of admin time. Between £250 and £450 was raised the 3 years that the Christmas Cards were done. It was agreed to do the Christmas Cards so long as parents assist with the admin so that it does not impact on the school. Sue Mackie offered to bring money scales to help speed up the process if counting coins.

7. Proposed Spend

All were happy with the 5p contribution towards school swimming lessons. £3 per pupil contribution towards schools trips was also approved. Other approved spends were a contribution towards Christmas parties, P1 book bags, P7 gift tokens and improvements at the main gate to show that it is the entrance to the school.

8. AOCB

Harriet Campbell advised if parents wish to view the school, to make an appointment through Mrs Fleming.

The new High School is progressing and it is anticipated it will be ready by Christmas. Eva Reader advised that the school are now looking at what is to go inside the school, with parents of those currently at school or current P7 being encouraged to attend a meeting to discuss. Mrs Lothian will attend the P7 transition meeting next week.

It was felt by some members of the Parent Council, that the name Parent Council could be intimidating for some parents, especially if they do not know what is involved. Suggestions can be made for a new name to publicise meetings, however it should be noted that the name Parent Council should remain as it is in the constitution and also any funding comes through in the Parent Council name.

Sheila Fleming suggested that those helping/organising fundraising events could bring along another parent who does not normally attend meetings to help at events to see what is involved. It was also suggested that a noticeboard could be erected at the entrance.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 16 November 2016.