

Parent Council Meeting

Held at Edenside Primary School on

Wednesday, 9 May 2018 at 6.30pm

Present: Harriet Campbell, Heather Waddell, Jill Scott, Ailie Ramage, Beth Packham, Cllr Tom Weatherston, Harriet Pattinson, Sara Boulton, Margaret Riddell, Zoe Currie, Sue Flint, Kirstin Murray, Louise Lodge, Anne Marie Bready and Mhairi Jamieson

1. Apologies

Cllr Simon Mountford, Cllr Euan Robson, Jane Jackson, Ginny Stewart, Jane Woodcock, Alison Grainger, Nicola Moir, Eva Reader, Sheila Fleming and Jane Nimmo

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes were approved by Sue Flint and seconded by Sara Boulton.

3. Headteacher's Report

Staffing

Mr McGuickin and Mrs Whittle are retiring at the end of term. Interviews have taken place for Mr McGuickin's replacement.

Mrs Mitchell has returned to work in the nursery.

World of Work Week

Miss Douglas' class visited Plexus this week to learn about the working environment and pupils gave a presentation to members of management there. A number of parents and volunteers are to give talks/presentations to the lower, middle and upper school about their jobs to let pupils know about varying career options and what is involved in the roles.

School Gates

The new school gates have been praised by a number of parents and passers-by. Thanks to Kirstin Murray for all her hard work.

School Review

Head Teachers from 2 other primary schools and one of the Quality Improvement Officers from the Education Department recently carried out a review of the school and nursery. Anne Marie Bready showed a presentation of the findings of the review. Comments were very complimentary and praised staff, pupils and parent helpers for their commitment towards giving pupils a rich learning environment. It was a good spring board to be built on by the new Head Teacher.

4. Chair's Report

New Head Teacher

There is no news as yet on the new Head Teacher. A long-leet has been drawn up and the interview panel has been agreed. The interview panel will consist of Gillian McKenzie, Quality Improvement Officer, Cllr Simon Mountford, 1 further member of staff from the Education Department, Harriet Campbell and Jill Bradshaw, the previous Parent Council Chair who was involved in the interview panel for Anne Marie Bready. Interviews will be held soon.

School Gates

Kirstin Murray was thanked for her hard work on the new school gates.

Painting

It had been highlighted that a painting donated to the school a number of years ago by local artist Penelope Beaton could be quite valuable. It was agreed by all that the painting should be sold to raise funds.

Assault Course

With Miss Fairbairn no longer at Edenside, it is unclear what is to happen with the assault course as she used to organise this. Anne Marie Bready said that the new PE Teacher, Mrs Rhodes, may be interested in helping run this.

5. Treasurers Report

There is currently just under £4,500 in the bank. Monies recently have been spent on the installation of the basketball hoops, Kapla, gates and railings plus some other smaller items. Monies from the coffee evening are included in the total currently in the bank.

6. Fundraising Report

It was agreed that a further bake sale could be organised for the last Friday before the holidays. Learning from previous bake sales, it was felt that the best location for tables would be in zones (upper, middle and lower school) to save congestion. It was also felt a good idea to let the school crossing patrol know that pupils would be leaving school slightly later. Harriet Pattinson, Ailie Ramage and Heather Waddell can help.

7. Coffee Evening

The coffee evening went well, however there were less people through the door than last year. Last year there were 196 through and this year 75 and takings were down £600. It was felt that it may be beneficial for flyers to be distributed. Jane Nimmo had not been keen for flyers to go out this year to try to demonstrate to the pupils that the school is eco-friendly. It was agreed that flyers could be distributed next year to see if this makes a difference and perhaps Parent Council could produce/print these. Costs for this year's events were down on last year as, for example, the raffle tickets had been purchased on the internet rather than through Meigle printers since they had closed. The new ticket supplier was much cheaper.

8. Spending

Noticeboard

It was felt that noticeboards were needed for the entrances where notices could be displayed. It was also agreed that a liquid chalkboard could either be borrowed from Kirstin Murray or purchased for display at the entrance to advertise events such as the coffee evening.

Blinds

It was highlighted again that the blinds were needed to view the audio visual screens in the hall. The quote from Scottish Borders Council approved supplier was £5,500. Another quote that Louise Lodge has obtained from a local supplier was for £4,500. The costs are quite high as scaffolding is required to erect the blinds. As the local supplier is not one of the Council's approved suppliers, liaison with the Procurement Department at Council is required. Match funding may be available through the Quality of Life Fund. Procurement may also be able to assist with taking the fund application forward so that it can be submitted at the next approval meeting.

9. Any Other Business

School Garden

Marianne Broadgate has taken the lead and arranged weekend tidy ups of the garden which have gone well. It is planned to develop the garden to help pupils learn how to grow things in sustainable ways. It is hoped that once the garden is tidied up, and made a safe space, it can be used by all pupils and teachers and not just the nursery. To encourage more volunteers, it is hoped to hold tidy up events alternating between Saturdays and Sundays perhaps also some time during the week. It was also felt that notices could be sent out about when tidy ups are to take place. They are currently on hold at the moment, however, due to repair works taking place to the wall in the garden. No time has been given by the Council as yet as to when works will be complete. Anne Marie Bready will look into this. Donations for equipment, furniture, plants, etc for the garden could also be looked into.

Charity Begins at Home

Anne Marie Bready thanked Margaret Riddell for the cheque from Charity Begins at Home. The monies are much appreciated. Discussions will take place with staff as to the best use for the money.

Discos

More parent helpers are required for the end of year discos.

Parent Council Secretary

Mhairi Jamieson is stepping down as Parent Council Secretary. A new Secretary is being sought before the next meeting/AGM.

Thanks

Thanks were expressed to Ms Bready by Parent Council.

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 5 September 2018 with AGM at 6.30pm and Parent Council Meeting thereafter.