

Parent Council Meeting

Held at Edenside Primary School on

Wednesday, 27 April 2016 at 6.30pm

Present: Harriet Campbell, Jill Scott, Cllr Tom Weatherston, Harriet Pattinson, Susan Mackie, Angela Hinnigan, Nicola Moir, Kirstin Murray, Lisa Bridgewater, Jane Jackson, Lorraine Tait, Zoe Currie, Louise Lodge, Diana Miers, Ginny Stewart, Terni Jhooti, Balinda Ball, Vic Horsburgh, Pauline Carruthers, Rosalind Wedd, Eva Reader, Jill Scott, Sheila Thomson, Anne Marie Bready, Sheila Fleming, Jane NImmo, Nicola Fleming, Mhairi Jamieson

1. Apologies

Cllr Simon Mountford, Jane Woodcock, Margaret Riddell, Cheryl MacLean

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved as correct.

3. Jill Lothian – Head Teacher, Kelso High School

Mrs Lothian explained that she is trying to meet with Parent Councils from all the catchment primary schools. This is an interesting time with the new High School, Head Teacher, Depute Head Teacher and some new teaching staff.

A Parents' Evening will be held tomorrow, 28 April to explain the transition from Primary to High School and showcase some of the key events.

The High School uniform has not changed for a number of years. The tie has been redesigned with the school logo along a red tie. This will be worn with a white shirt and black v-necked jumper or cardigan. The school will continue to use the same supplier for jumpers, however there is no issue if pupils wear Sainsburys jumpers. Mrs Lothian has contacted the store who have confirmed that they will stock the required uniform. A supply of white shirts and ties will be held at school should pupils arrive at without them. Skirts should be black and not too short. No jeans will be allowed. It will, however, be OK should pupils wear canvas trousers. Sixth Year pupils will have a black tie and pupils will still be able to pick their jumpers, however this may change to red jumpers in future. Blazers are not being considered at the moment. Footwear should be black (no white on them, for example white stripes around the sole). Hoodies will be permitted for PE, but not for school.

It has been noted that there are often few pupils in the canteen at lunch time. All 1st year pupils will now remain in school until Christmas and the grab and go lunches will be brought back. Clubs will also be run by 6th year pupils so other pupils stay in school at lunch times. This will especially come into play at the new school where the Co-op will be the only shop within walking distance. The new school will have different areas to buy different kinds of food – more University style. Parents are in favour of this.

The school is trying to use more social media to generate more topics and to be more open. Parents' opinions on this will be sought at the parents' meeting tomorrow night.

A lot of thought has been put into the outside space at the new school, for example a 3g and 2g pitch. Allotments and an orchard, are being discussed as are construction workshops, outside classroom, etc. The outside space is very important. Mrs Lothian is working with Charity Begins at Home to have areas to watch sports. It is hoped that the school will be a community school. It is also hoped to form links with the facilities that will be near the new school, for example the ice rink and golf course. Partnerships are also being formed with local businesses which are looking for apprentices.

The Maths Department will have 2 new staff after the summer plus it is hoped to recruit a Business Studies teacher.

There are a number of Advanced Higher courses on offer – in all subjects except PE. The High School is currently working with Jedburgh Grammar who have low numbers wishing to take some courses and are hence amalgamating classes with Kelso. Some pupils therefore go to Jedburgh for some subjects and vice versa.

The school still has links with Queen Margaret University College.

Mrs Lothian prefers parents to come into school or phone if they wish to raise any concerns with her, rather than posting concerns on Facebook.

4. Head Teacher's Report

Staffing

Ms Bready explained that currently there is only the Acting Principal Teacher post to fill to cover Miss Lindsay.

Mrs Inglis has left to teach at a school nearer home.

Mr Brodie and Miss Nimmo are covering P5 to provide continuity, although Miss Nimmo has been asked to be an assessor for literacy and numeracy in the area. All the resources she uses as part of this role can be kept by the school.

Mrs Brown hopes to return at the end of term or the start of next term following an operation.

Mrs Watson's post won't be replaced. All wished Mrs Hogarth well recovering from her operation.

There will be 3 retirements in June, Mrs Dijkman, Miss Deans and Mrs Cordiner. Appointments have been made to their posts.

Accommodation

The nurseries will be moving into the school. The class moves to accommodate this has been exciting for pupils. The ICT suite will be moved down to the current P2MW classroom. Three quotes have been received to carry out this work. The current P1 and P2 playground will be unavailable during construction. A plan of the new layout will be sent to parents. P1 and P2 will be in the playground by the car park which will be cordoned off. Parents who collect P1 – P3 pupils will be asked to come in early next week so that they can be walked round. In the morning, there will be no capacity for parents to be in the playground due to

lack of space. Gates will be manned to ensure pupil safety. This arrangement will only be for a short while. If a parent needs to pass on a message, tell Ms Bready or put in a note or phone in.

Uniform

P7s have asked if they could look smarter and dress differently to younger pupils. This will also help younger ones identify buddies.

The current P6s have had an informal discussion, for example deciding on the existing hoodie at the end of term, a different coloured sweatshirt for the whole of year or a shirt and tie.

11 wanted no change, 28 wanted a different coloured sweatshirt and 18 wanted a shirt and tie.

Hoodies will stay in place for this year.

Ms Bready will write to P6 parents about the pupils' choice for a P7 uniform. The colour will not change every year, therefore it can be handed down to younger siblings when they reach P7. Concern was raised that some pupils still have growing room in their P6 sweatshirts which would have lasted through P7. This was highlighted to pupils when they made their choice.

GIRFEC Named Person

Ms Bready gave a presentation to explain the "Named Person". The wellbeing of pupils is at its centre, however this does currently take place with MACs (Meetings Around the Child) taking place for vulnerable children, and children with disabilities and care issues. The Named Person launch has been delayed until August pending a court case. A health visitor will be the named person for pre-school age children. Thereafter, when the children enter Primary School, this passes to the Head Teacher of the primary and then secondary. The Head Teacher is the Named Person if there is a worry about a pupil. Parents can, however, come of see the Head Teacher if they wish to discuss a concern about a child. They can also speak to a Depute Head Teacher or Class Teacher if they wish. The Named Person will not be a Social Worker. A Named Person is not mandatory if wished by a parent. The Named Person is available at all times. If there is a worry about a child that is so grave, for example a child protection issue, a system is in place for this to be communicated to school and the named person may call to see if everything is OK. If there is a serious concern, this would be reported to Social Work after discussion with the parent. The Named Person is there to ensure that children do not slip through the net of support. The rights of parents are still sacrosanct. There isn't much difference to the current situation except additional paperwork. It also now gives routes for example dentists to contact the named person if they have concerns. In the past this would not have been possible due to confidentiality. For children who are home schooled, their Named Person will be a Council officer responsible for home schooled children.

Daily Mile

There are a number of volunteers for this. Harriet and Diana will walk the course to see what they think. Open sessions are to be held in Stirling where the daily mile was first introduced. It is hoped that some staff can attend to feed back to the rest of the staff. It is hoped to start the daily mile soon.

5. Treasurers Report

There is currently just under £1,800 in the bank. £9,000 has been spent in the last financial year, with £2,500 on the kitchen.

6. Fundraising Report

There hasn't been much fundraising recently. A fundraising meeting will be held following the Parent Council meeting. More people are always needed for the Committee. So far this year, the Committee has run the sponsored walk, the dress down day, pub quiz and discos. The Committee has plans for some events in May and June.

7. AOCB

Harriet Campbell reminded parents that they should not park in the Health Centre and Pool car parks.

Jill will be standing down as Treasurer at the AGM. Harriet also wishes to stand down as Chair, however is willing to stay on if no-one comes forward. Nicola is also keen to stand down from the Fundraising Committee.

In response to parents queries re playground games, Ms Bready advised that pupils are not allowed to play tig or British Bulldog. They are, however, allowed to run around the playground.

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 7 September 2016. The AGM will also be held on this date, at 6.30pm.