

Parent Council Meeting

Held at Edenside Primary School on

Wednesday, 3 May 2017 at 6.30pm

Present: Harriet Campbell, Jill Scott, Nicola Moir, Jane Woodcock, Jane Nimmo, Anne Marie Bready, Sheila Fleming, Susan Flint, Zoe Currie, Harriet Pattinson, Allie Ramage, Ginny Stewart, Sara Boulton, Adrienne Gibb, Margaret Riddell, Cllr Tom Weatherston, Sheila Thomson, Diana Miers

1. Apologies

Balinda Ball, Cllr Simon Mountford, Angela Hinnigan, Nigel and Amanda Harriday, Eva Reader, Gail Stewart, Nicola Patterson, Kay Anderson

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

3. Head Teacher's Report

Staffing

The Principal Teachers were thanked for their assistance during Miss Nimmo's recent absence. Thanks were also given to Miss Deans and Mrs Cordiner for covering classes.

Pupil Equity Funding

Equity Funding has been made available for impoverished pupils from disadvantaged areas. Edenside is in a decile 4 area. A small number of pupils in the school have challenges in their lives. £70,000 has been awarded to the school with the money to be set aside for these pupils as a targeted intervention with, for example, improving nurturing for those who require it. Some of the monies will be used for staffing to focus on working with these pupils, for example one-to-one work and continue with the support in the nurseries.

Building Works

The old nursery portacabins are to come down in July. The space made when they come down will be grassed over to create more playground area.

Next year, the two P1 classrooms will be merged into one with an open area between. There will, however, still be two P1 classes with duplicated materials in each class

Next Year's Priorities

Maths will be a priority once more, with a focus on recall and mental maths. Tracking and monitoring of pupils progress will also be a focus to ensure that learning is more structured.

Nursery will look to have more of an interaction with P1 to help with the transition.

Kitchen

The Home Economics Department at the High School gave advice on what items to include in the kitchen. The kitchen now just has to be checked with Health and Safety. We are currently still waiting for them to confirm when they will be visiting to carry out the inspection.

Upcoming Events

Walk to school week will be in 2 weeks. Happy shoes day will also take place during walk to school week. Pupils and staff will be able to wear any shoes they like.

The Kelso Laddie will be visiting on the 15th for lunch. There will be a number of competitions around Civic Week for all classes to enter.

The P7 High School visits will take place on 13 and 14 June with the disco on 15 June.

The incoming P1 meeting for parents will take place on 13 June.

P4 – P7 Sports Day will be on 7 June. P 1 – P3 Sports Day will be on 8 June.

Funding Requests

It is hoped to purchase new chairs for P2.

More visualisers are sought for use across classes.

Blinds for the hall are required. As the initial quote was quite expensive, further quotes are being sought.

A further folding dinner table for the dining hall is required.

Kapla blocks/jigsaws for wet play days. The kapla blocks can also be used as part of maths lessons.

It is hoped to plan a theatre visit for the upper school. Costings are currently being looked into.

4. Chair's Report

Spending

Spending will be discussed with stage representatives.

Snow Schools

Comments have been raised with Harriet relating to the snow warnings that were put out and busses being cancelled. The snow did not then arrive. Harriet explained that as busses are located in different areas plans must be put in place early. Also, contacting parents the previous day, allows time to make arrangements for childcare.

Nit Week

Harriet explained that the school is not allowed to send out notes to advise when nits are in the school. Harriet has ordered nit combs with more to be ordered. A note will be sent to

parents explaining that it is planned to hold a nit week where parents will comb their children's hair at home and treat if necessary. It was considered asking the school nurse to talk to pupils at assembly to explain to them what to expect.

P7 Leaving Gifts

It has been noted that often the book tokens are not being spent as pupils are perhaps keeping them as a memento. It was agreed that an alternative gift could be given.

The High School has been asked if there is anything that all the pupils need when moving up to S1. They have advised that either an art pack or a scientific calculator is required. It was agreed that a calculator could be purchased once prices have been investigated.

P7 Disco

Harriet Pattinson, Harriet Campbell, Diana Miers and Nicola Moir agreed to assist at this.

P1 Parents Welcome Meetings

Harriet Pattinson may be able to help with this.

School Disco

This will be held on 8 June.

5. Treasurers Report

There is currently £6,479 in the bank.

The coffee evening raised £2,000, the disco raised £300 and the obstacle course around £900.

Swimming lessons have been paid through to the summer and monies have been paid for the school trips.

6. Fundraising Report

Nicola Moir gave details of the events which have raised £4426 so far this year with the obstacle course and teas from sports day still to be added.

It was agreed that the format of arranging events and then arranging dates, spreading events throughout the year. Volunteers should then be sought to run the events.

When organising events, it was asked if volunteers could note down how they arranged the event and what worked/didn't work so that volunteers arranging a similar event in the future can use this for reference. A template will be devised to help with this.

7. Spending

Discussion took place regarding ice cream on sports day. It was agreed that all pupils should receive an ice cream from Parent Council. Margaret Riddell will give Harriet Campbell details of the ice cream van which comes to Kelso during Civic Week.

It was agreed to consider the prices for pitches when holding future car boot sales and ensure that they do not coincide with a car boot sale at Ancrum or St Boswells. Nicola Moir will check dates and advertise in Kelso Life.

The Bingo night works well. It was agreed to continue with this.

Nicola Moir will look further into the possibility of a fashion show.

It was agreed that Christmas is a busy time and therefore perhaps not the best time to hold events.

The coffee evening in March went very well. As this can be held indoors, there is no need to worry about the weather.

A ceilidh could be organised to tie in with Burns night. This would be run as a family event. It has been noted that events that include pupils are well supported.

It was agreed that a list should be compiled at the start of the year and fit events in around holidays.

Harriet Campbell will obtain a quote for the noticeboard.

Netball back boards are required by Miss Fairbairn. She has compiled a list of what is required.

Quotes are being obtained for the blinds for the hall

Derek McGlasson is to paint the gates/fence red.

It is hoped that an arched sign should be erected over the entrance. Sara Boulton and Ginny Stewart will investigate perhaps having a competition to design the sign and how the sign could be produced.

8. Any Other Business

Eva Reader would like to stand down as Vice Chair. Nicola Moir would also like to stand down from co-ordinating fundraising. Members were asked to consider standing for these positions.

It was agreed that the Nursery be included in the £3 towards trips. Consideration could perhaps be given to increasing this amount to help cover some of the cost of the increase in costs of booking buses.

It was also agreed that a pot of, for example, £30 per class be set aside for spending by Teachers on small things for the class.

The Nursery play area will be enlarged to include the area where the pergola was.

Harriet Campbell will take forward proposals for improving the Secret Garden. A list has been put together of volunteers to help in the Secret Garden. Sarah Hush has offered to tidy it up and it will then be possible to see what other work is required to improve it.

PC Gina Dickson, the Community Constable, is moving on to another post. Thanks are to be passed on to her for her support and assistance.

9. Date of Next Meeting and AGM

6 September 2017 with AGM commencing at 6.30pm and the Parent Council Meeting thereafter to be held in Edenside Primary School.