PARENT COUNCIL



Minutes of Parent Council Meeting

Thursday 18 January 2018

18:00 - 20:00

Attending:

Kirstene Bauld, Dan Rous, Lesley Ramsay, Anne-Margaret Ballantine, Justine Jones, Caroline McLean

For the school: Mr McLaren, Mrs Campbell

Apologies: Debbie Wynd,

- 1. Welcome, introductions and apologies
- 2. Approval of minutes from 27 November meeting
- 3. Chair's Report
 - a. General Report
 - b. Questionnaires
- 4. Head Teacher's Report
 - a. Outdoor Kitchen Garden
 - b. ASD Provision
 - c. Nursery
 - d. Report Card Working Group
- 5. Finance / Events
 - a. Christmas Fayre
 - b. Parties
 - c. Golden Café
 - d. Forward Planning
- 6. Constitution
- 7. AOCB
- 8. Date of Next Meeting

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| Agenda | Recap of information discussed | Actions |
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| Point | | by: |
| 1. | Welcome all. | |
| 1 | Debbie Wynd who can no longer commit to the parent council group. | |
| | Fiona Guthrie and Paula Welsh send their apologies. | |
| 2. | Approval of minutes from November - agreed | |
| 3. | Chairs Report | |
| | (a)General update: | |
| | The Christmas Fayre had good reports overall and only a few small tweaks will be | |
| | adjusted for the following year including a change of location for the 'Special | |
| | Man' to allow things to keep improving. Any input is always welcomed and will be | |
| | taken into account. An overall profit of £1064.19 was made so thanks again to | |
| | everyone who contributed in this. The highest earner was the raffle so well see | |
| | what great donations/gifts we can get for the upcoming year. | |
| | (b) Questionnaires (from Harvest festival 2017) | |
| | 1.Do people want to be more involved in the parent council: Mainly, No but some maybe's. | |
| | 2. Are you aware of what the parent council does: This could be clearer (hoping | |
| | we have made this easier now to access with all the information being put out on the website) | |
| | 3. Are more Coffee and chats wanted: This was still wanted. Discussion on how this is marketed to ensure people know what is on offer. | |
| | 4. Preferred contact method: Dojo/ Facebook. | |
| | 5. Do you feel we need to do more Fundraisers: Got it right. | |
| | We may run this questionnaire again in the future OR an online Poll to view what still needs to be worked on. | |
| | Golden Café: Starts back tomorrow (19 th January), Volunteers still required as this | |
| | is only a parent run event. A Message will go out on Dojo about this. | |
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4. Head Teacher Report:

ALL

Outdoor Kitchen Garden:

Mrs Campbell (our acting principal teacher for the enhanced provision) made us aware of the ongoing discussions and plans.

Money from Tesco was £2,000 to go towards the re development of the wild life garden. Asda's money which is still awaited can also contribute towards this. The plan is to clean it all out, build raised beds perhaps from old railway sleepers and the school has contacts for this. It is going to be totally accessible for everyone, with the aim to grow our own produce and perhaps even cook with these in school.

We need people to come on board including the community as it can become like a mini allotment. Already there is apples and plum trees. We already have one willing helper but will need more. The Enhanced provision classes will have a lot to do with this area as well as the p7 for the John Muir Award.

Dan will link the school with the Social Enterprise Academy who can help the school create an enterprise activity from the garden which can raise funds for community benefit. A representative will come to the school to support and Dan will also support locally.

ASD Provision:

Proposals for the GP room and Miss Wilsons room to be reconfigured to create specific classrooms for those requiring this. The aim being to create 2 smaller classrooms and a meeting room/office with Miss Wilson moving to the current sunshine room. The toilets will be re allocated inside with a changing suite. The date being planned for August 2018. This will also involve the need for more staff.

Nursery contracts.

As we are all aware new rules have been developed in relation to the number of hours children receive in nursery. It is to increase from 680 hours of nursery time to 1,140hours per year and amounts to a 0900 till 1500 day placement which everyone will be entitled to. It is planned for children after their 3rd birthday and again more Early years officers would be required for this provision.

Report card working group: meet next Thursday (24TH Jan)

There are 3 parents initially supporting this group representing different year groups to give a balanced view. Please speak to them and voice your opinion on

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| | the report cards so it can be taken forward. Those involved are: Lesley Ramsay (p2), Carol-Anne Rous (p5) Pamela McLaren (p6). | |
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| | Mr McLaren attended a Head teachers meeting and he shared that a high percentage (70%) of Polmont's young offenders have a speech and language concern and included those children that seemed to be excluded from schools. A positive statement from this was that the experiences from those that attended school still remained a positive experience for those individuals and this is where Mr McLaren feels the school trips that have been happening will stay with the children forever. This is a positive use of the Pupil Equity Fund monies. The Pantomime had 100% take up excluding those children that were unwell. | |
| 5. | Finance / Events | |
| | (Please contact us for full financial information if required) | |
| | Parties: We contributed £168.89 to the Ceilidh we gave £168.89 and a total of £163.50 on the p1-5 parties. Golden café £78.32 (for infant end to be spent) | |
| | We will be buying the Hoodies for the trip shorty for the p7 at a cost of £350:00. A slightly thinner jumper will be trialled this year to see how the children find it since it is more cost effective and will allow them to wear it in class after the event and not get too hot, hopefully. | |
| | Valentines Disco Date set for Thursday 15 February. This is in the middle of the short week following the mid-term break so works fine. DJ booked and they will include games/competition's. A budget of £200.00 is being set which includes the DJ. | |
| | Discussion followed on feedback from children, parents and teachers. | |
| | A higher cost to include food/drink seemed to be well received. Not having a tuck table freed up some volunteer time and also avoided children having to carry money in the disco – often without pockets or a bag. Decision to raise cost to £2.50. This goes toward a DJ, Food, Juice, and picture in the photo booth. The goody bag will include crisps, chocolate and a sweet. There will be unlimited juice available (rather than just one | Dan to do school let |

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bottle each) along with a healthy snack table.





- Children in the upper school felt the disco wasn't long enough. Once check in and goody bags have been dealt with, they probably only ended up with 45 minutes.
 - Decision to increase the upper school disco to 90 minutes.
 - The first disco will run from 5:45 to 6:45, and the upper school disco will be from 7:00 to 8:30pm.
- The photo booth is very popular, but finding a good way to allow parents to view & order pictures with ease is proving difficult. To make things easier & to still allow children to come to the disco without needing money, we have decided to add the cost of one picture to the price. It should be noted however, that while parent helpers on the night will try and encourage children to have their picture taken, the decision to do so or not remains with the child.

Volunteers for Disco

Since all parties are NOTHING directly to do with the school and those teachers that do help do it out of their own time, we have set a minimum of 8 required helpers to make the events safe. The older Valentines Disco still need volunteers.

The letter to parents should give basic information then direct them to these minutes to get more background as to the changes and how we are listening to their feedback.

Forward Planning

It was decided not to have a disco at Easter as it's very close to Valentines. Instead, the Summer Fayre would be moved to be a Spring Fayre and held on a Friday afternoon in May from 2-4pm – date to be confirmed.

The summer "Shorts and Shades" disco would go ahead in June and would hopefully be free for all children as a thank you from the Parent Council.

It was noted that Mariners Day is 9 June so we should not impede or clash with preparations for that.

6. Constitution

Feedback was positive but Dan wanted to make a couple of changes to this and would report next time.

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| 7. | AOCB | |
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| | In the future, the P.C will look into getting 2 events to help with 'how to run a parent council' and to address the 'PVG/Safeguarding' concerns. | |
| | Reminder the link on the parent council facebook page closes this month on the government consultation on the new Education Bill | |
| | Woodcraft, weekly, Tuesday nights, 6 -7:30pm will be held in the school and NEED helpers as this is a children's club from p 1-7 that includes: outdoor/indoor games, arts and crafts, night walks, social issues, exploring nature and much more. It only costs £2:00 for this weekly activity and last between 1 – 2 hours. Please contact: (Clare 07421745780) or email clare.ritchie@woodcfaft.org.uk OR on Facebook 'Woodcraft Folk Camelon'. | |
| 8. | Date of next meeting: | |
| | Thursday 1 March at 18:00, in the school, entrance via school car park. | |

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