

Parent's Council Meeting Wednesday 1st March 2017



Minutes Taken By: Bernadette Gillespie

Meeting Commenced at 6:05pm

Attending

Chair – Stephanie McGougan

Vice Chair – Caroline Hewitt

Treasurer – Arlene McCreadie

Secretary – Bernadette Gillespie

Parents – Claire Browne and Yvonne Kirkpatrick

Head Teacher - Mark Ingram

Class Teacher - Dympna Melody

Appointed Church Member – Gillian Thompson

Apologies

Claire Struthers

Matters arising from previous meeting – None

Mr Ingram then proceeded with a school update.

- The biggest change with the school at the moment is the change of school hours. It's working well, in terms of additional support hours we are receiving and there are less incidents outside in the playground.
- The afternoon in school is a long slot, it's a long time between lunch and 3pm, looking into breaking it up a little bit.
- P1 intake have 3 girls Lana, Callie and Ava. Inductions will start every Friday after the Easter break; Ms Melody will be contacting parents directly to let them know.
Possible new family starting from Kilwinning next session, children will be going into p4 and p6, if they decide to join us.
7 children going to Queen Margaret and 3 starting p1, the school role will be at 31. It will affect the staffing but don't know how. We will still have Dympna, Jamie and Raqual as staff teachers. I utilise staff from both schools so no one misses out. Chris Crookston, I will be keeping him one day a week. Steve Frew came to visit, Olympic gymnast (in the paper).
- Dolphin House pupils raised enough to get £30 off. Challenge children for next year to beat this amount.
- Trip today to Glasgow to see the Orchestra, transport museum and the Cathedral was a success. The total cost £240. Looking to use their national trust card more and have more days out instead of one big trip.
- On World book day, we have organised a series of potted sports where Ayr United, Ayr Storm and Troon handball will be in.
- Burns Competition was a success, already thinking about next year. Perhaps contacting the Burns Club and making more of an event.
- Web site almost up and running. Twitter is up and aiming for a tweet a day. Twitter has to be open to the public for it to be usable on the website. Using design core for the website. Floating idea of having parent's consent forms using text as well as paper copy.
- David (Kiltie) is coming in more, taking photos of events and has taken staff photos.
- Audit of the Parent Council Fund – not done yet but it will finish it once cheque book is found. MI suggested that the audit can be done for free through the school.
- Playground equipment is being purchased through playdale. Thank you to the parent's council for depositing a cheque for £4245. The total cost of the equipment is £7,500, work should be completed by 31st March.
- Scot play for outside equipment. Looking to the national lottery grant £10,000 for a trim trail and a jungle gym.

- Pupil equity fund this year is a guaranteed £4,800 this is from the Scottish Government targeted development and improvement of attainment for specific children in the school – the money is to ensure we are closing the attainment gap with these children. This can be used for everyone, everyone can benefit from it.

Proposals for this money: (Open to ideas also)

1. Percussion – music tuition for ½ a day a week. MI will have to become an employer to the percussion teacher, costs £5000 for the year.
*Tracy Nelson is considering getting a regular instrument for tuition in August. Personally, instead of brass I'd prefer percussion because you are working with rhythm and working with beat and every child can access that. Shona can't commit to that till the 20th March when everyone's staffing is in.
 2. Step – Physical literacy (MI's personal favourite) 100 mins of PE
This is all about developing literacy through physical education. This is not your normal PE, it's 10 mins in the morning and 10 in the afternoon, it's meant to be in a one to one basis for tracking. So you would monitor the tracking of a child's health and wellbeing. Costs £800 for 2 children a year. This could benefit all children, all can participate but only the 2 children will be tracked.
 3. Breakfast club – from 8:30am estimated cost would be between £2,500-£3,500 a year. All children with free school meals will be free. These 4 children will not pay for any trips either.
BG – I think having a breakfast club will benefit the school. It will be more appealing to new parents knowing their child can come early to school.
- Inspection – Education called to tell me that no parents agreed to come in to the meeting. MI asked a few parents from each class. They are using a new shortened inspection format. They will speak to 2 groups of children from P4-7.
 - Helen Morland is part of the PAR north Carrick project. Sent a letter of apology for not including St Cuthbert's.
 - CH suggested that the teachers should do their D1 driving to drive the mini bus for local outings and utilise use of the national trust card. It costs £900. Raqual is down as a mini bus driver. AMc suggested to consider Kyle Transport to affiliate to. Might be cost effective.
 - Due to the expense of the School Trip last year, the school are looking to go on more cost-effective trips.
 - Swimming team for the Gala in March, we have 3 names so far. The 6 and 7 class have been invited to a trip to Sunderland to watch a football match the same weekend, this is through Active Schools.
 - Swimming next year, there will be no transport to the swimming pool and so will save that money usually used for the mini bus. Would prefer to open swimming to the p5-7 classes.

Stephanie then opened for any questions parents may have.

- CH asked if the communion will be at the church or the cathedral. The Communion will be at the church and the confirmations will continue at the cathedral in Ayr. Communion this year will be Sunday 18th June. CH suggested that there should be better communication between the school and church. Gillian is the children in youth co-ordinator within the church and would like to strengthen links with the school and encourage more child participation within the church. It would be nice to have the school choir sing at church.
- MI asked GT if she would ask the parishioners how they would feel about mass on the 1st Wednesday of the month starting at 9:15am instead of 9am. This is simply a health and safety point of view, children will be marked off the register and then walk to church together.
- BG asked if the school are doing the Daffodil tea this year. MI replied yes, we are and it is on the Thursday 23rd March, our enterprise group are organising it. Pancake Tuesday raised £32.
- BG asked if the school are continuing with WOW Wednesday. MI said yes, we will continue with it till the end of June this year.
- BG asked when will the website be up and running and will there be a date for the diary released in the meantime? This is to give parents an idea of what's happening every month as there has been little communication so far. MI said we won't need that, the website should be live from Friday, just need to filter out some teething problems. BG said that she understands the school have last minute activities organised, every school has but big events have not been mentioned, the recent one being the Confirmation. No parents were told about it, only those of the children involved. We are a community we want to know

what's happening with all the classes. MI said on the website each class will have their own page and will be updated frequently. We will aim for a tweet a day and there will be a calendar of events. There will also be a pupil zone for pupils to click on games.

- MI has asked if the school can pilot a 3D printer and the authority will pay for it, this could happen.
- MI had said of the Maybole 500 burns event - The kids had performed very well, even though there was very little notice. AMc had said it was a shame people started to leave before it finished, it was rude and very noisy.
- BG said we are still doing the bonus ball and have raised a total of £359 and this will be going towards the notice board.
- MI has suggested there should be a shelter for parents when it rains. Instead of parents going into the school, perhaps move the bike rack. £270 to get it moved.
- BG said the parent's council would like to do something for the children, AMc suggested a chocolate egg hunt with BBQ. GT suggested use the grounds of the church during the Easter holidays.
- BG has asked about whether the school are updating the library. MI had said that the school are having a book clear-out from their library and want to update their system. Might look to parent council for some money for new books. There is a need for some senior fiction.
- Can you look to see how much you will be requiring from the parent council for the rest of the school year so we can budget accordingly. MI said yes, I will look into that.
- MI there is a new acting head for Gardenrose, her name is Louise MacDonald who was the Head Teacher of Dailly.
- CH brought up the issue of foul language in the playground. MI said there is a group of 4 children who have disgusting language and it won't be tolerated. It is being dealt with, they will miss out on trips and events.
- SMcG asked about the next fundraiser. She suggested a race right. MI suggested tough mudder and could use the children to write letters to companies. DM suggested using staff to collect prizes.
- GT asked if she can take information from the website and incorporate it into church bulletin. MI said yes, of course.
- BG asked if the school have always had a national trust card. CH said Culzean has a lot of workshops for schools. It was all agreed that the card should be used more to enable the children to enjoy more outdoor learning.

Thank you to all who attended.

Meeting closes at 8:10pm