

Parent Council Meeting Minutes

16 September 2015

1. Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes were approved and agreed to be distributed to both PC members list and parents list once ready.

2. Finance

Our treasurers have resigned due to work commitments preventing them from fulfilling the post adequately. The parent council is therefore urgently looking for one or two parents to fulfill the role.

The bank balance is healthy with over £6,000. It was agreed that some of these funds should be used for something useful. The school has purchased a white board and additional resources for P2 from its budget and so additional funding would be most welcome. The school library is also almost ready to open and there is always need for more books.

Action: release £750 to purchase sport equipment and £2000 for general school funds

It is suggested that the new treasurer should work on a system for people to apply for funds from the Parent Council

3. Letter to Bord na Gaidhlig regarding Irish teachers

The Parent Council is working on a draft letter to Bord na Gaidhlig to enquire about the best ways to facilitate Irish teachers into the Scottish GME system to help make up for the shortfall of teachers. While the council agrees that BnG has likely envisaged this solution, we hope to help with a solution from the school's experience with an Irish teacher.

4. Ann Patterson

Ann is the Gaelic Development Officer at the school and has recently taken stewardship of the Janitor's house to organise various activities.

- The cheese and wine party was a successful event with an attendance of over 100 people at the janitor's house.
- Home and early years: Thursday morning classes has 22 people with a waiting list of 16, Thursday afternoon classes, which has a creche has a waiting list for 27 children
- Tae Kwon Do classes for P6-7
- At James Gillespie's there are 2h reading classes and classes for teachers, 13 of whom are attending during their lunch break.
- A knitting club is starting in October
- A buddy scheme was put in place between Gillespie's and the Glasgow school.
- Promoting music

Action: Send ParentMail notice to advertise Ann's newsletter to parents

(There was a short discussion about whether we should bring the Christmas service from Greyfriars Kirk to Leith but it was agreed the location was important to the tradition and we should just invite the congregation to the school to maintain a relationship with them)

5. Quality Improvement

The Parent Council plans to send a survey to parents to gather feedback 2 years after the school opened. This could be done via ParentMail

6. After School Clubs

The request for comments about after-school clubs gathers 107 responses. Of those 78% indicated that they were in favour of lunch-time clubs, 71% said they liked the idea of after-school clubs

Preferred topics for clubs were broken down as follows:

- 62% for art clubs
- 56% for science clubs
- 45% for dance clubs
- 40% for ski / snowboarding clubs
- 37% for language clubs

There is demand for activities beside Oganan to be organised as they have reached capacity (Mondays for example have a waiting list of 11 pupils). A working group is to be created to organise this and the Parent Council is seeking a chair to lead this endeavour.

7. Head Teacher Report

Topics covered in the Head Teacher report are available in the school newsletter dated 23 September 2015 sent to all pupils school bags and to all parents registered with ParentMail.

Action: Send a ParentMail notice regarding the need to find a French / Spanish teacher

8. Construction Near the School

The main issue with the construction site relates to the access via Stanwell Street. An increase in traffic means more danger for the children. The Parent Council and the school would favour an entrance road from Tennant St.

It's important to respond to the consultation in high numbers and to discuss the matter with local councillors to outline our concerns.

Action: Send ParentMail notice to remind parents of the current consultation and how they can contribute

9. Out of Catchment

A meeting with Andy Gray, Liz Gray and Janice MacInnes took place in late June to outline the concerns of parents living outside the catchment boundaries of Edinburgh city council. Fiona McNeill, Abigail Burnyeat and Ed McCabe attended on behalf of the Parent Council. Although the meeting was informal a mention was made that Gaelic Medium Education would be a cause for "Significant Additionality"

A further informal meeting was setup with Liz Gray on Friday 18 September.