

# **Minutes - Craigentenny Primary School Parent Council Meeting**

## **12<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – 6.30pm**

In attendance: Karen Aikman, Jackie Chalmers, Stephanie Dean, Calum Freeman, Linda Grieve, Marianne Hopley, Steven Malcolm, Claire McDowall, Dee O'Brien, Carly Simpson, Claudine Turley, Emma Walker, Steven Walker, Mussie Zewdie

### **Treasurer's Report**

Still trying to get access to the bank account, but approx. balance is £1,526.00.

Bought new football goals and also helping to fund Hot Chocolate Friday which seems to be a big hit.

Made £232.20 from the Halloween discos.

### **Head Teacher's Report**

#### 1. Staffing

- Music Specialist has started with us on Mondays. She is teaching P3-P7.
- PT Nursery – Jo-Ann Galbraith to start next month.

#### 2. SQIP – Developments

##### Parental Engagement

- People Know How – leaflet sent out.
- Parent Focus Group – discussing reporting, small number of parents so sent a questionnaire.
- Parent Workshops – Lifelong Learning, EAL, Red, Write Inc etc.
- Social Events for Parents – some organised and planned by P7s.
- Trialling App – recording pupil work.
- Parent Volunteers – shared volunteer opportunities – feedback to give specific tasks and ask parents to support.
- Diversity Celebration – working with parents and MCFB, True Colours. Event in term 4.

##### Health and Wellbeing

- Updated HWB Curriculum from CEC – shared with parents and staff – information was sent by e-mail to staff.
- Miss Cooper has been on training and will be the rep for our school.

##### Nursery

- Had a Care Inspectorate inspection in September – Report on website. Areas were: Quality of Environment and Quality of Care and Support – Very good for both.

##### Cluster

- P7 and S1 teachers have observed one another and planned lessons together – said this has been extremely beneficial and helped ensure progression and challenge.

### 3. School Highlights

- Hot Chocolate Friday – Positive Postcards home.
- Meeting for P6 parents about next session's camp – December or January.
- Christmas Events have been added to online calendar.
- Almost all parents attended Parent Consultation and used opportunity for feedback re:ball park and Vision, Values and Aims.
- Successful Open Day for new P1 Parents – led by P7s.
- Nursery have been to visit the New Build with hats on – trying to involve them, builders in Nursery Garden.
- Nursery had balance bikes gifted to us – children have been enjoying these in the garden.
- P1 and P2 ballet workshop 26<sup>th</sup> November.
- P3 are shortly going to start working with the Edinburgh Youth Choir.
- P4 and P5 are working with Dunedin Consort and will culminate in a performance in December.
- P5 and P6 have help with Loganlea Park Plans – planting, bug hotels.
- P6 going to Edinburgh College 25<sup>th</sup> November – professional kitchens, science outcomes for food technology.
- P7 Work with Youth Talk – 10 Villages - what they would like in their communities.
- P6/7 Attending Sportshall Event - Pupils did really well – we didn't make it through to the next round but the children together were deciding on chants and the things they selected as important were effort and teamwork.

### 4. Outdoor Education Grant

- Skiing.
- Ranger for the Buddy Garden

### 5. Building Work

- Now have fortnightly meetings with builders to ensure communication.
- Bike Racks – still chasing this up.
- Basketball Court – vote was for the back of the school, however location will need to be changed slightly as did not allow for fire engine access.
- Woodland Area – drains were not where they expected so work has taken substantially longer. They hope to be off that area in the next fortnight.
- Trees – replacing the trees, I asked him to check that the original number has been increased by 30 (number which were taken down).
- £2000.00 spend on playground equipment from builders – waiting for options for this.
- Will create a large chalkboard wall which will be retrained after work is complete.

### Music Tuition

Linda Lees attended the meeting on behalf of IMS (Instrumental Music Service) to discuss the concerns raised about the lack of music tuition in the school. In particular:

- Concerns were raised about how late the process was to begin again this year for selecting students. This has still not started yet for the P6's so clearly won't start again until next year. Was in the same position last year with P6's starting their tuition later than they should.
- Wanted to know why it was decided that Craigentenny would lose their instructor (Tim), rather than any other school.

Linda is the Strategic Manager for Lifelong Learning. The Arts and Creative Learning is the largest in Scotland and they are proud of the fact that this remains free in Edinburgh. A lot of other areas have had to start charging for this. It is the council's decision whether to charge or not and they would set their own charging system, but this service remains free in Edinburgh schools. They also have the smallest management team which causes difficulties. They have limited resources with 50 odd instructors covering various disciplines over a number of schools.

There are two instructors at Craigentenny (Tim and Dave), but the instructors timetables cross all schools to ensure fairness. One instructor was needed to fill a vacant role at Firrhill High School and despite having recruited someone, the instructor pulled out and so this role needed to be filled meantime. Tim was the only one suitable who could fill that particular role and this is why he has been removed from Craigentenny currently. He is however, due to return in January 2020.

The instructors select the pupils who are best suited to learn instruments and go through a process of selection which takes place in the first term. Other schools are getting this from P5, but it does vary from school to school.

Experiencing high drop off once children move to High School. Change to the process of selection was made to reduce drop off. Raised issue that if children are not starting their tuition early enough then they will be further behind when they get to High School which makes drop off more likely.

The issue is lack of resource, the budget is there and they are actively recruiting but need to prioritise High Schools.

Linda stated she didn't know the rationale behind why Tim had been removed from Craigentenny but believes it will be due to some specific timetabling. She confirmed she will find out however.

Issues remain unanswered as follows:

- Reasons behind why Craigentenny have lost their teacher, rather than any other school – Linda will find out specific reasons behind his decision.
- Why selection process is being delayed – don't really feel this has been answered.
- Why Dave hasn't started on brass instruction – this needs followed up.
- Process of selection needs reviewed. There has been 40% drop off since Easter in brass so current process is clearly not working – Martin is due to review process but not yet had time.

Linda reiterated that Tim will be due to return to us in January and she will try and make sure we get back any time lost. Above can be carried forward to next meeting and will hopefully have some answers by then.

### **Lifelong Learning**

Lorna attended the meeting to highlight her role in Adult Education/Family Learning. She wants to find out what parents need help with. There will be three sessions covering helping with homework, maths and literacy, plus anything else that is required, such as internet use.

Sessions will run from 2<sup>nd</sup> December for three Mondays.

Can give ideas and support to parents.

Also runs classes and can set up groups if there is a requirement.

## **Craigentenny/Meadowbank Community Council**

Marianne and Jackie attended on behalf of the Craigentenny Parent Council.

They have grants that they have access to and have asked for suggestions on what this can be used for. Discussed with the HT and spoke about the buddy garden to perhaps include this for outdoor learning and also a ranger service for the buddy garden.

### **Nursery Xmas Party**

Some parents felt £3 was quite a lot for the party. School have organised a magician and also food so Parent Council have agreed to pay for the magician to help with cost to parents.

### **Nursery Build Up-date**

Covered in HT report. Still on track for August.

### **Drainage in Playground**

Drains were jetted last week so hopefully this will improve, but if still an issue, report to HT.

### **Idle Cars Outside School Gates**

Spoke about parking buddies. Could maybe ask the Community Council if we can apply for a grant for this – will take this forward at next Council meeting. Also suggested asking the Police to attend for a week and either speak to people or start issuing tickets. HT spoke to taxi service but there has been no improvement and taxis are still parking on the chevrons. Also suggested getting lines re-painted as they are quite faint now.

### **Parents Waiting Area**

Raised issue again about providing some cover space for parents and younger children to wait for older children coming out of school. Discussions took place on the following:

- Providing a cover space would cause other issues as teenagers would loiter and so would prefer to avoid this.
- Also discussed moving school days, i.e making the school day the same for all classes. However, this would require massive changes and impact numerous aspects of the school day across the board so didn't think this option was viable.
- Suggestion made about obtaining some large umbrellas that parents can use when raining. Can try getting these from the Lost Property Office as they have sales, periodically. Can also contact the bus companies re their lost property.
- If anyone has any other suggestions, please feel free to pass them on.

### **Application for Grant – Playground Markings**

HT spoke to children to get suggestions for more playground markings. Marianne has now applied for the grant. Suggestions made were timestables, a compass and 1-100 snakes and ladders. Also need to get the mile reinstated.

### **Safe Route to School – Craigentenny Avenue Crossing**

To get in touch with Lorna (Sustrans) to re do this crossing.

## **Scottish Sun Free Books**

We should be advertising the fact that the school are collecting tokens for this. Agreed to send out message on Parent Pay.

## **Tea Towels**

Same format as last year, cost £3.50 each.

## **Xmas Fair**

Steven agreed he will be there on Thursday night to help and organise set up.

Staff will be available from 3.15 but will need to find out what time we can access the hall.

Could do with more helpers for the fair. Also mentioned the baking stall was quite low last year. Marianne will send out reminders.

Need to think of games to do for stalls, e.g. pin the nose on Rudolf.

## **P7 Funding for Ski Lessons**

Plan is to apply for a lottery grant for P7 kids to go to Hillend for skiing lessons. Not sure if it will come through in time for current P7s but is hopeful.

## **AOB**

- Window Grills: Joan Griffiths previously spoke about the window grills being removed. This is supposed to happen at Easter but will need to have fencing up first. Not sure what the current situation is so HT will find out.
- Parent Council Meetings: previously raised issue about people not being able to attend meetings due to have no child care. Suggested a parent rota so that one or two parents will look after the children in another room, whilst parents attend the meeting. Will do a survey to find out if parent would be willing to do this but also to find out if having the meetings at different times would result in more people being able to attend.
- Raffle Tickets: Steven now has these so will advertise through Parent Pay and Facebook page to see Marianne for tickets.
- Bottle Bags for Fair: Mrs Grieve thinks she has some that she can supply but if anyone else has any, please hand them in.
- Xmas Fair Santa: Santa is unable to attend the Fair this year but we have a posting box so that kids can send a letter to Santa instead.
- Parent Pay: does allow you to do any transaction unless it's over £1 so suggested making this with a donation to Children in Need.