

## **Minutes - Craigentenny Primary School Parent Council Meeting** **13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – 6.30pm**

In attendance: Kerri Carr, Jackie Chalmers, Stephanie Dean, Nikki Gordon, Cllr Joan Griffiths, Marianne Hopley, Steven Malcolm, Claire McDowall, Lisa Murray, Mussie Zewdie

### **Actions from Previous Minutes – 12/11/19**

School Tracksuits/Hoodie for sports events – contact the Company who do the P7 sweatshirts to see if we can get something arranged.

Funding for P7 skiing – too late for this year but should have funding in place for next P7s.

P6/7 Music Tuition – both music teachers are now back in school. E-mail being sent to parents to explain process of selection and give the option to opt out for kids not interested in learning an instrument which should shorten process.

Bike Racks – bike racks are in but cover has not yet been put over them.

Location of Basketball Court – possibility of moving this to the side of the new nursery, so where it was but just further down. Will still have access from outside of school via the path at the side of the school. It's within the compound where they are currently working and so can get on with relocating it and will then be available for use again once the building work is finished, sooner than previously expected.

Replacement Trees – some more trees will be planted to replace the ones they cut down.

Money Construction Company – Building Company doing the work on the nursery have agreed to give the school £2k. Still to get the money and decide what to do with it.

Repainting Lines – have asked the council twice for these to be repainted. Joan will follow up for us.

Parking Buddies – this was raised at community council meeting and Joan e-mailed to find out but not had a response yet, she will follow up.

Window Grills – refurb will start end of school year so 2021 refurb will be complete, grills will be removed as part of that. More information in HT Report.

Safer route to schools – Joan has been trying to get this looked at for many years, she will follow up again.

Parent Pay <£1 – quite restrictive and not always appropriate to ask people to make a payment to charity to make up to the minimum payment allowed. HT will contact Parent Pay to see if this can be sorted.

Lottery Funding (Ranger Service) – for buddy garden, submitted grant, applied for £10k not sure if we will get it, timescale is 18wks

P6/7 Residential Trip – Lagganlia booked for 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020. £235 per child. Children on free school meals and whose parents may struggle to fund the trip in full should contact HT for further information about financial assistance. Deposits due end of February. Will arrange meeting to discuss before the February holiday.

Time Gap between younger and oldest classes finishing - contacted lost property to get umbrellas but no luck. Suggested we also try Police lost property, also churches have lost property.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Currently have a total of £6,791.28. £6,518.28 in the account and £273.00 is in petty cash so account is looking very healthy at the moment.

Recent additions include a Community Grant we received for £2,082.00, we raised £2,122.00 at the Xmas Fair and £418.30 from the tea towels.

## **Head Teacher's Report**

### 1. Staffing

- PT LCC – Jane Kaczynski has started as acting PT in LCCs.
- P.E. Specialist will be absent from school for minimum of 12 weeks, we have a possible person to replace her, awaiting confirmation.

### 2. SQIP – Developments

#### Parental Engagement

- New App for parents so everything is in the one place
- Two classes to trial Seesaw app
- Parent workshops by Lifelong Family Learning in Literacy & Numeracy
- Next Parent Focus Group theme is Communication and date is Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 11.00am

#### Health and Wellbeing

- Health and Wellbeing Family Challenge event next week 22.01.20

#### Nursery

- Currently looking at resourcing in the Nursery particularly to ensure opportunities for literacy throughout the nursery – inside and outside

### 3. School Highlights

- Successful Christmas events including the fair, church service, parties, film night and choir visits.
- This term – school photos, HWB Family Challenge evening, Sharing learning event at the end of February.
- We are also looking to redesign our school logo to fit with our school values.
- Building Refurbishment – possibilities are roofing, heating system, external doors, security system including possibility of fence, sanitary wear, windows – initially use EYC as decant space.

### 4. Camp

- Camp and skiing covered already under Actions from Previous Minutes.

## 5. Building Work

- Basketball Court – previously covered under Actions from Previous Minutes.
- Drainage in playground - The puddles in the playground were due to some of the drains being blocked. Last Thursday all the drains jetted which should have solved this problem.

### P6/7 Music Tuition

Covered under Actions from Previous Minutes.

### Weekly E-mail/Newsletter

Covered in HT report.

### Tea Towels

Covered in HT report and Treasurer's report.

### Christmas Fair

Covered in HT report and Treasurer's report. Few comments made about how much everyone enjoyed this year's Fair and that everything seemed to go well without any hitches. Well done to everyone involved in the planning/organisation and to those who volunteered by doing some baking or who helped out on the day with the stalls.

### Application for Grant – Playground Markings

Received a Community Grant for this so looking at getting more playground markings.

### Drainage in Playground

Covered in HT report.

### P1 Toilet Arrangements

Some parents have asked if it's possible that the P1's don't share the same toilets as the older children. Going by the number of children we have in the school and the number of toilets we have, we don't have a case for requesting any more toilets. There are no other toilets in the school that can be used in any case.

P1s initially go with adult to the toilet when they first start school and then in pairs so they aren't there on their own. P1s go before lunch which is before rest of school goes for lunch so they shouldn't be having to use the toilets at the same time as the rest of the school anyway. Same applies at break time.

As part of the refurb we're looking to get smaller toilets put in for smaller kids in the existing bathrooms.

There is no justification for requesting more toilets and there are arrangements in place to help the P1s, so doesn't appear to be a major issue. However, if anyone does have any concerns, please contact the office or HT.

## **P7 Leavers Event**

Some parents have asked if it would be possible to have a P7 leavers disco/prom.

Current arrangements for the school are that the children get to choose what they would like to do for their leaver's event. The choice again for this year has been for an activity, rather than a disco/prom.

Asked if it would be possible to arrange a disco/prom if the P7 parents were willing to help organise/fundraise for it? HT will find out from pupils if they would like a leavers disco/prom first. If so, will then contact P7 parents to get volunteers to set up a group to organise this.

## **Leith Gala – 13/6/20**

Made a few hundred from last year but weather was terrible. Struggled to get volunteers and didn't make much money, struggled to have any members of staff last year due to various issues. Should we consider this again?

£50 for 1 table but took 2 last year so cost was £100.

Would need to book soon, if we wanted to do this again this year.

General consensus was that it wasn't worthwhile and is very dependent on the weather so we should not go ahead with a stall this year.

## **AOB**

- Diversity – lots of different cultures in school and so to promote this and allow the children to experience different cultures, an event will be arranged, possibly in the final term, outside if weather good. This will involve bringing in different kinds of food to let the children taste food from other countries but also dress, music, history etc.
- Mobile Phones – some keep in bag outside and some keep in trays, what is the policy on this in school. HT will check and confirm.
- Parent Council Chair - Marianne will be stepping down after August so need to have someone else step in to Chair. An e-mail will be sent out and ask that anyone interested should contact Marianne.
- Xmas Fair – do we need to invest in a microphone?
- Playground – regarding the grassy area the Building Company dug up, it is not acceptable to let the grass re-grow. It would not be available for use for some time so they should put it back to how it was before. HT will pursue getting it re-turfed.
- Trees – one parent asked what trees they are planning to plant, hopefully nothing with thorns as his child had a thorn stuck in her. HT will check.
- Dog Dirt – really bad again esp at back of school. Can report them and get dog warden down if they can pin point when it's happening. Consider getting kids to write letters which can be posted through doors around the school asking them kindly to pick up after their dogs. Joan/Marianne can take forward at Community Council meeting. Ask other dog walkers to keep an eye out for offenders.

## **Carry Forward to Next Meeting**

- School Tracksuits/Hoodie for sports events.
  - Money from the Construction Company, also trees being replanted and grassy area.
  - Repainting Lines.
  - Parking Buddies.
  - Safer route to schools.
  - Parent Pay <£1.
  - Sourcing umbrellas.
  - Playground markings.
  - P7 leaver's event.
  - Mobile phones.
  - Parent Council Chair.
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- Lottery Funding (Ranger Service) – for buddy garden, may take 18wks to hear, but keep on agenda to follow up in future.