**Minutes of the Strathesk**

**Parent Partnership Meeting**

**Mon 14th January 2019**

Parent Representatives Present: Hayley Birchmore Chair

Andy Wilson Joint Treasurer

Darren Aitken

Susan Henderson

Jessica Day

Jim Black

Emma Brown

Susan Duthie

Karen Cooper Clerk

Staff Representatives Present: Vicky Donaldson

Leigh Henderson

Debi Black

Deborah Kinnaird

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|  |  | Lead | Actions |
| 1. | **Apologies** - Marna Mesbahi – Vice Chair  Wendy Henderson – Joint Treasurer  Correen Hope  Emily Reynolds |  |  |
| 2. | **Chairperson Update** – Hayley welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided a quick overview of the previous minutes | Hayley |  |
| 3. | **Treasurers Update** – Wendy Henderson was unable to attend the meeting, however, it was suggested by Vicky that around £2700 was raised at the Christmas Fair. |  |  |
| 4. | **Head Teacher’s Update** –  Vicky said that the children had enjoyed all the Christmas activities at school in December and had a good break. She then talked about the following:  **The HUB** – Vicky said the HUB had been very productive in the lead up to Christmas, they had provided several families with food hampers for the festive period and up to 3 toys per child. Vicky hoped that the funding for the HUB would continue as it has proven to be a valuable and popular asset to the school.  **In Service Day** – Staff covered Principles of Nurture, working with children on the Autistic Spectrum using new ways of thinking and new techniques.  **Nursery Expansion** – Pilot Scheme of 32 children attending from 8-3pm in addition to the current AM/PM children commences on 4th Feb. Nursery currently very busy preparing for these huge changes which includes finalising additional catering/sleeping area/staffing etc.  **Staffing** – Mr Armstrong has returned to work following the birth of his son Tomos.    **Junior Road Safety Officer (JRSO)** – Following further complaints about parking on and around the school campus there is to be a big push in conjunction with the Police, JRSO’s and Parental support to implement safe parking solutions. A letter has been sent out by the school regarding this issue. SKANSKA may help with additional signage.  **2018 Parent Feedback ‘You Said/We Did’** – 85% of children were happy in school.  **Visually Supportive School** – The school is working in conjunction with Speech and Language and Education towards becoming a ‘Visually Supportive School’. It is has been recognised that visual symbols encourage better learning. The school is to be audited on Fri 18th Jan. Once implemented it could possibly lead to a formal accreditation recognition award.  **Homework** – Vicky spoke about studies conducted regarding homework and whether it was useful or causes undue stress. A questionnaire regarding homework is to be distributed for feedback. | Vicky  Debi & Deborah |  |
| 5. | **Funding Requests –** The Nurseryrequested a sum of £245 to take part in the ‘Living Eggs’ project. Agreed by Chair. | Deborah | Agreed by Hayley |
| 6. | **Other Activities/Events** –  **Scots Night**  - Wed 23rd Jan – Vicky gave an overview on what was planned for the evening: music, dancing, poetry, and good all round family fun. It was hoped that ticket sales would be better than last year when poor sales led to the evening being cancelled.  **Christmas Fair** – It was overall a huge success with around £2700 being raised. The home baking side was particularly popular and more emphasis should be placed on this for the next Fair.  **Parent Mixer Evening** – Hayley proposed that the Parent Partnership host a social evening for Nursery/P1&P2 parents in a local venue to encourage more parents to get involved and support the Parent Partnership. A letter will be sent out for general feedback before a venue is booked. If this goes ahead and proves successful other year groups will be considered. | Vicky  Hayley  Hayley |  |
| 7. | **Parent Partnership Communication** – In addition to the proposed ‘Parent Mixer’ Hayley stated that better ways of communicating with parents should be explored including Texting/ Emails/ School Apps/ Class List etc. Both Vicky and Hayley will work in conjunction after further re-search on what is available, the cost and whether it would be approved for procurement, by Midlothian Council. |  | Hayley & Vicky |
| 8. | **Parent Partnership Constitution Rules** – Vicky explained that currently the Parent Partnership was operating without constitution rules and that now a new chair was in position it may be prudent to set these rules in place. Hayley agreed and will liaise with Vicky. | Vicky | Hayley &  Vicky |
| 9. | **Dogs in Playground** – A general discussion took place regarding dogs being brought into the school grounds at drop off and pick up times. Opinions varied but on the whole many agreed that if owners were responsible and dogs were under control and well behaved it was not a problem and may have positive benefits, however, it is still currently a corporate line that dogs are not permitted within the school grounds. |  |  |
| 10. | **School Disco’s P7 Prom Ceilidh/Disco** – A general discussion took place regarding future school discos and the P7 Prom, which takes the form of a disco and traditional ceilidh. It was suggested that children prefer the disco music and dancing. Rather than the ceilidh dancing which imposes a stricter format. Issue to be discussed closer to next P7 Prom. |  |  |
| 10. | **Date of next meeting: 24th April 2019** |  |  |