**Minutes of Parent Partnership Meeting**

Thursday 12th September 2019

In attendance: Amanda McConnachie, Emily Reynolds, Leigh Henderson, Hayley Birchmore, Marna Mesbahi, Susan Duthie, Darren Aitken, Susan Henderson, , Heather Biggs, Melissa Thomson, Jenny Donaldson, Elaine Campbell, Paul Wilson, Ruth Duggan-Riddle, Alma Linkeviciute

Apologies: Debi Black, Melissa Thomson, Jim Black

**1) Committee Update and Positions**

Secretary – still required and to carry this forward to AGM

Treasurer - Marna Mesbahi and Susan Duthie are jointly taking over this role and are finalising the transfer of access to the bank account.

Vice Chair - Marna to continue in this position at present

Current balance in the account is £3,811.61 but there are three outstanding invoices to be paid once the banking access resolved which equate to about £1,000.

To re-assess and discuss all roles at AGM (date to be determined later).

**2) School Update**

Head Teacher

No suitable candidates came forward following the last advertisement and so it has been decided to continue with the current management structure which is working very well.

This comprises of Amanda McConnachie as Acting Head and she is supported by two Deputes; Leigh Henderson and Emily Reynolds.

An experienced Head Teacher is desired. The current structure is working very well and so they can afford to take more time to locate the right candidate.

Authority and funding is in place to advertise for another class teacher to take Ms McConnachie and Ms Henderson out of class more and they are considering this further. They already have extra management out of class, generally always 2 staff members out and Principal Teachers also take a whole day out instead of ½ a day which other schools do.

The Head Teacher role will be re-advertised at Easter time with a view to a new start for the next academic year.

There was general chat and agreement regarding a “management team welcome letter” being distributed to parents and attached to social media so parents can identify with the structure and know who to contact with issues etc. The school is to look at taking this forward.

Communication

A Group Call email system is in the process of being set up which will allow for emails to be sent to all parents. This will not immediately replace paper/letters in bags but it will go a long way to ensure that parents are better informed of news and activities.

It was agreed that the school website was not very user friendly, it is not regularly updated as it is very time consuming and in any event it appears that Email and Apps are the way forward with regard to communication. ClassList is live and more parents are signing up to this forum -we should keep pushing it forward as it is a great means of communication and it is free.

Behaviour Policy

The school behaviour policy has been tweaked and updated and attendees were given the opportunity to review and discuss the same.

The new policy highlights the differences between issues i.e. relationship conflict and bullying as the two are different and should be handled differently. The policy is much more about teaching better behaviour earlier.

The policy also deals with inclusion in mainstream schools and how to meet every child’s needs. There is currently a lot of training within the school on this aspect.

A lot of work and training has also gone into environment and anxieties. There is a currently a class space “the base” which is manned by 2 staff members as all times which provides a quiet space for children to calm down or visit when they need. It is proving to be very successful and an invaluable space for supporting children who at times struggle with the curriculum or the environment.

The school is encouraging pupils to talk about their feelings more through our work on values and the Resilience Programme.

Reputation

We discussed the historical negativity about the school and perceived “reputation”. We all agreed that this was not at all our experience of the school and it was very much historical and we should do our utmost to turn this around.

Ms McConnachie advised that the school itself is a very positive, diverse and inclusive school and that the parents should be proud of their children as they are in her experience well mannered, polite and kind. The school is a very happy place. All issues within the school are dealt with quickly and resolved.

It was agreed that more attempts should be made to promote the school in a positive light, to celebrate and shout out about our achievements and successes.

It was agreed that an “achievements” section should be added to the newsletter to share successes and children should be encouraged to share any achievements they have.

We should also make more effort to ensure that at events at which we are represented; be it sports events or debates etc we should be promoting the school more positively in matching kits etc.

There is a shared learning event coming up on the 25 October 2019 and parents should be encouraged to come in for this and to see the school for themselves and how well it is doing/what a happy environment it is.

Parents should also be encouraged to participate and attend at other school events and with the PP. There was a much better turnout at this meeting than the last few which was encouraging. There is some negativity about there not being enough activities organised for/at the school but with little to no input from parents at the PP meeting it is extremely difficult to do more.

**3) Nursery Update**

Unfortunately, a representative of the nursery was unable to attend but the School advised that the roll out of increased funding has so far been successful.

Most children at the nursery are now full time and positive comments about how well the children are advancing were made. There remains some part time children but from next August all children at the nursery will have to take a full time place and the nursery is well equipped to deal with this having made an early start to offer places now.

**4) Fundraising**

It was agreed to have monthly dress down/dress up days:

These are to be on the first Friday of the month and to start from Friday 4th October 2019.

There will be a suggested donation of £1 for this and it is not mandatory.

The funds generated will be split between the PP fund and a charity and it was agreed that we should have an annual charity and that this should be selected by the P7’s. The school is to discuss this with the P7’s and confirm the name of the charity in due course.

It was suggested that the dress down days should not just apply to the school but that it might be nice if the nursery (who are always dress down) could instead “dress up”. It was agreed that this was a wonderful idea and it is to be put to Mrs Black and the nursery staff.

Other ideas were discussed including “make a £1 grow” an idea in which the children are given £1 and asked to be entrepreneurs and increase that money i.e. by baking and then selling cakes or buying washing liquid and then washing cars etc. Another local school did this and not only was it great fun but it taught the children about the value of money and the child who “earns” the most could be rewarded with a prize (voucher perhaps). The school to consider this.

There is a pupil council and it was suggested that there should be some crossover with that and the parent partnership – i.e. a member of each attends the others meetings to feedback and strengthen the relationship. The school to mention this to the council and try to set this up.

P5 trip

It was noted that the current P5 class did not attend a school trip last year (the only year group not to do so). The school are keen to rectify this and have identified a trip but it is £9 per child and they would like the PP to subsidise this to the value of £4 per child thus charging parents £5. There are 54 pupils to P5 meaning a PP contribution of £216 and it was agreed that the PP would meet this cost.

Halloween disco/party

It was discussed whether we were now too late to organise a Halloween disco after discussion it was agreed that subject to Chaplins disco being available that we could get this organised in time.

It was provisionally agreed that a P4-7 disco would be pencilled in for either Tuesday 29th October or Wednesday 30th October (depending on the disco availability). Marna agreed to speak to Chaplins about this.

The PP will contribute a packet of crisps, freddo and juice to each child attending and Marna and Susan (Duthie) to check the stock availability/purchase more where necessary.

It was agreed that last years disco was not enjoyed by the majority of the younger children in P1-3 and discussions as to alternative events took place. It was agreed that P1-P3 would instead have a “dress up” day on Friday 1st November for a £1 donation with the PP to provide crisps, freddo and juice for a smaller class type event/party.

It was agreed that the costumes should not include scary masks and this should be communicated across the school in case the older children also chose to dress up for this date.

Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre is to take place on Friday 6th December 2019.

The school staff will be on a CAT day and so will be onsite.

We agreed that early preparation should take place this year and agreed the following:-

1. Early newsletter announcement of the date – Marna and Lynn to start collating this. The newsletter should include as much info as possible.
2. Class hamper themes - this can be the same as last year.
3. Classes will all have a stall each
4. Social media notice and advertisement of general stalls
5. Raffle prizes will be a Nintendo Switch, A Scooter and a £100 voucher (Argos/toy store) and the committee to start pricing these up
6. Raffle ticket suppliers to be located and ordered early
7. A list of previous raffle donors to be collated/updated and letters to be sent out sooner rather than later.

Discussion about the time of the fayre took place with the suggestion that it immediately followed the end of the school day but the issue over staff lunch and helpers’ children’s lunch slightly hindered this. It was suggested that we perhaps look at a food option for the fayre e.g. ask Gravity (local pie shop) if they would like to come and sell pies/sausage rolls at the fayre? It was agreed that this could work and be a very nice addition to the fayre and Hayley agreed to contact gravity and look at other options – preferably local business in the first instance as to whether this could be provided.

**5) AOB**

Living Roof

The question was raised as to what we knew of the school’s living roof and whether more could be made of this. Could we send a Drone up there for images/CCTV?. It was agreed that this should be looked into as it would be a good area to teach the children about and the school to take this forward perhaps with the assistance of Mr Armstrong.

Benmore

Time was limited and so the costing/other options for Benmore camp to be carried over to the next meeting

Wild Planet Explorers

Susan Henderson wanted to discuss this business and what they could offer to the school but again, time was limited and it was agreed to continue this to the next meeting.

Hayley Birchmore

**Next meet scheduled for Wednesday 9th October 2019 at 6.00pm**.