

Minutes of the Heriot Primary School Parent Council meeting (Autumn term)

12th September 2018 6.30pm

Present:

Susan Anderson (Headteacher)

Sam Wallace (Chair)

Alison Crabbe (Secretary)

Helen Brinkworth (Treasurer)

Kyla Bell

Naomi Marshall

Ruth Kydd

Emma Clark

Laura Henderson

Apologies:

Sarah McFadyen

Orla Major

Lorna Lagerman

Tricia Mieduniecki

The minutes for last Parent council meeting in May were approved.

Headteacher's Update

Website

There have been ongoing issues with the current school website, therefore at the last AGM it was decided to contact the council to confirm whether a new website could be hosted by the school. There has been no response from the council regarding this matter as yet. If the Council agree Helen has kindly offered to design a new website for the school.

Staffing

Unfortunately Mrs Lewis leaves her P1-3 teaching post at the school this coming Friday – the Parent Council is to present her with a leaving gift on Friday at 11.45am. Mrs Armitage is to now teach the P1-3 class every Monday-Thursday and new recruit Ms Jill Hamilton will be teaching the P1-3 class every Friday.

A new principal teacher for Heriot & Fountainhall Primary Schools, Ms Alana McCardle, has been appointed and will start following the required checks. A senior nursery nurse has also been employed for the ELCC at Fountainhall and should start shortly.

Parent Council funding at the school

The First News package which was previously funded by Parent Council has been cancelled for this year as it was felt this resource was no longer relevant.

The costs of funding the SumDog package have increased this year to approx £80/year. There is currently a national SumDog competition running which the school is competing in. Parent Council will continue to pay for this on an annual basis.

It was proposed by Ms Anderson that the Parent Council purchase Charanga resource – this software includes music teaching materials. This proposal was first approved by Sam Wallace and seconded by Helen Brinkworth.

Upcoming dates for the diary

- The school is to hold a MacMillan coffee morning on 28th September 10-11.15am. Some pupils have written to the community website to advertise this event.
- Jeans for Genes day is on 21st September -there is a £1 donation to this charity for the children to wear jeans to school for the day.
- Three parents from Heriot P.S. have expressed interest in The Grow Confidence workshops to be held in Stow.

Music education update

Recorders were bought for all the pupils last year by the parent council. Mrs Sheridan is to provide recorder tuition for both classes from January onwards. In addition, the Youth Music Initiative will be visiting the school in the 3rd term for the P4-7 class. Sarah McFadyen and Joel Sanderson hope to provide some music sessions in the school in the coming year - Sam Wallace is to discuss this with them. The Charanga package approved by the Parent Council can be used by teachers to teach music in the class.

Astroturf

It is proposed that the Parent Council aim to raise enough money to install an area of AstroTurf within the school playing grounds in front of the portacabin (not including the grass surrounding the trees or obstacle course). This is an area that consistently becomes waterlogged and becomes difficult for the children to play in, especially in wet weather.. The P4-7 class have measured out the area proposed for Astroturf installation.

Scottish Borders Council only have one set contractor approved to install Astroturf – this company have given the Parent council a rough estimate of £20000 (for a mid-range quality product) to complete this work. The parent council would like to check whether anyone knows of any other companies that install Astroturf that could potentially be approved as a contractor by the council.

Potential funding sources for this work could include Carcant windfarm (£10000 max, deadline for applications 24th Oct) or the Localities Bids (£10000 max., deadline for applications 1st October).

Fundraising Events

The following Parent Council events were proposed for the following year:

- Halloween party potential date Friday 26 Oct at Heriot Primary School
- Christmas Fayre potential date Friday 7th Dec at Heriot Primary School
- Easter Event date tbc
- Spring clean tbc
- Duck race date tbc
- Sponsored bike ride Heriot-Innerleithen in Spring/Summer
- Car boot sale

There was some discussion on the format of the Christmas Fayre and whether to retain the child-centred format of the event last year or to open the event more widely to the community. Fountainhall P.S. Parent council have not received their share of the last Easter event - Helen to check takings for event.

Samantha Wallace said should be happy to take a lead on organising the Spring clean and Easter event.

Kyla Bell said she would be happy to organise the Halloween party. Kyla is to schedule a separate fundraising meeting to discuss the organisation of the Halloween party event and to discuss the next steps for organising the Christmas Fayre.

AOCB

Sam Wallace would like to stand down as chair of the Parent Council – if anyone feels like they could commit to this role please inform her.

Laura Henderson informed the Parent Council that the financial situation of the Heriot Country Kids Afterschool Club is not good. This is due to a decrease in the number of children that now attend the club. Currently there are no children attending regularly on a Friday and the After School Club may have to look at closing on a Friday afternoon. It was decided to share half of the proceeds of the Halloween party and Christmas Fayre with the Afterschool club.

Laura also explained that she intends to start a fitness group in the school grounds on a Saturday morning with donations made towards the Afterschool club. Information will be shared with parents shortly.

Steff Potter queried the amount of homework that the P1s have received since starting school. Ms Anderson said she would raise the issue with the class teacher/s.

Next Parent Council meeting is to be held on 23rd January 2018 at 6.30pm.