

HYNDLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL MEETING (ONLINE)

MINUTES FOR 21 OCTOBER 2020

Present: Stephen Frame (Deputy Head), Julie Wynn (Deputy Head), Kirsty Chambers (PT), Alan Bonnyman (Chair), Chris Bryce (Treasurer), Dorian Grieve (Secretary & P4 rep), Clare Clacherty (joint P7 rep), Katie Brady Patterson (joint P7 rep), Jaime Guenther (P2 rep), Susan Kesson (joint P1 rep), Lindsey Pope (joint P1 rep), Helen Hucker, Emma McFarlane

Apologies: Helen Brown (Head Teacher), Paddy Morrison (Afty)

1. Welcome & apologies

2. Approval of AGM minutes

The minutes were approved. AB wondered if they could be published on the website. DG said he would do so.

3. Senior Leadership Team report

(SF) Staffing news: Claire Campbell has now retired and one of the PFs, Karen McGee, has moved on. Three temporary PT posts advertised in relation to the recovery curriculum have been filled, with Fiona Batista developing outdoor learning, Victoria Moir developing digital strategy and Kate Kitson developing literacy and looking at curriculum diversity.

Enhanced hygiene procedures continue with some changes. The ticket system for toilets is still in place however, addressing concerns around waiting times, capacity has now been increased to so that all cubicles are available for use.

The school is still encouraging social distancing and use of face masks at pick up and drop off times.

The car free zone has come into force, with use of Fortrose Street restricted between the hours of 8:30 and 9:15am, and 2:45 and 3:30pm. There are exceptions to this which will be passed on once known. HB has asked the police for a presence at these restricted times for the initial period.

School bags have been discouraged up until now but, with colder weather coming, from next week pupils will be allowed a small bag, a breakdown of what can be brought in this will appear in the upcoming newsletter.

Curriculum overviews will be coming out, these will be focusing on the recovery curriculum but if other areas are introduced over the course of the session revised copies will be sent out via the school website. Paper copies will be available for anyone who needs them.

As parent's nights are not possible, SF is working at providing interim reports and these should come out at the end of November.

The October in-service day was given over to contingency planning in case of a circuit-breaker lockdown with the result that two weeks' worth of literacy and numeracy packs, aimed at individual pupils' levels, have been developed for this purpose or should any pupils need to self-isolate.

P1 enrolment week will be from 2-6 November. There won't be guided tours for this but SF is looking at providing a virtual equivalent.

Jeely Piece Club whose sessions with P3s were interrupted at the end of last school year are returning to deliver the remaining sessions to those pupils, the current P4s.

(JW) Normally the Christmas fare is usually a big part of the school year but it is clearly not possible this year. Given this JW has been looking at alternative activities that might also raise funds for the school. To this end the pupils will be designing a calendar; parents will be notified when these become available to order. Pupils will also be designing Christmas cards (@£5 for 12) and perhaps also tea-towels.

In the past the school has been successful in its application for a grant from the Big Ideas fund, this year it is hoping to apply for something towards outdoor shelters. These grants are normally £150-1000.

There have been enquiries regarding Halloween. Activities will be going ahead, though pupils won't be able to bring props and costumes will have to be suitable for the whole school day (comfortable, warm, etc.).

Re P7 transitions, because of COVID staff cannot come down from the Secondary School, nor can pupils go up, instead a YouTube tour is being provided to help familiarise P7s with the school and it is still hoped they will get to go up in the future.

Re enquiry last meeting on the timing of the residential trip, it doesn't look possible to move it later in the year unless there is a cancellation.

(KC) Although nurture groups are not possible at the moment, the school is very committed to provision of nurture. This has been focused on making sure that teachers are confident with nurturing approaches in the classroom and as soon as it is possible to conduct focused intervention groups these will return.

Also in terms of support the school has Savings for Growth, an intervention around transitions and change. This can be any sort of change: moving house, a parental separation, suffering a loss, and lasts around 10 weeks. The school identifies pupils who may benefit from this but is also keen that parents are aware of the programme if they feel their children should be put forward for this. The school has a very experienced student play therapist but has also taken on two newer play therapist students which allows the school to fast track access to play therapy.

The school has purchased a new resource for health and wellbeing called Jigsaw. It is a progressive whole-school approach which will be the school's core programme for health and wellbeing going forward.

LP mentioned the fact that many no longer send Christmas cards for environmental reasons and that if electronic cards were an option it might diversify options for fundraising. JW thought the company might already do these and said she would explore this.

AB asked if there was anything in the pipeline regarding homework, noting it as a topic frequently raised by parents. JW replied that it is in the pipeline and that they have focus groups looking at this and were considering Seesaw and Sumdog as options but looking also at quarantining jotters.

JG asked if it was possible to have Seesaw Class so that parents can communicate with teachers. SF said that this was already being discussed and that he would look into it.

DG asked about the results of the survey JW replied that almost all had access to wifi but that there were sizable numbers where there was no suitable hardware the child could access.

Emma asked about the P3 nativity. SF said that the biggest barrier to this was that singing is not allowed in the school above P1s and that something will indeed happen in its place though currently he is not sure what.

4. Financial report

There is £3696.62 in the bank and £1900 is still being held in the hardship fund.

5. Year group reps.

AB welcomed Susan and Lindsey as the new P1 reps. He noted that a greater-than-usual burden was being placed on reps at the moment and checked that everyone was comfortable with that. The PC lacks a P3 rep at the moment and AB asked for support from the parents present in finding one. SF additionally offered to advertise this to P3 parents through group call.

KBP said that the advice to (all) teachers was strongly that they did not hold phone calls or video events in lieu of parents evenings and that it may be worth advertising this in case it was thought of as a choice on the part of the school.

In a similar vein, CB noted that some parents she had spoken to had assumed the car-free zone to be a measure introduced because of COVID rather than pre-COVID planned road safety measure it is and that this should perhaps also be advertised. SF agreed and noted that while he appreciated it was inconvenient for some parents, child safety was the school's paramount concern.

Emma proposed making people aware of some useful online resources for parents: Parent Zone deals with methods to support learning at home, and Parent Club, which deals with resources around socialisation and behaviour.

6. Sub-committee report

(CB) Traditional fundraising routes are not possible this year so CB is keen to push the easyfundraising app. KC has kindly agreed to help laminating posters to be put up around the school. £1000 has been raised so far by this route but given the increase in online shopping this could clearly be more. The app works with 300 of the most popular retail sites and send between 0.5 and 3% of the purchase price to charity, in this case, the parent council. She encouraged everyone to disseminate this widely. She also mooted the possibility of raising money through a mobile phone recycling scheme.

Car Free Zone

AB has been in touch with the council to see if they would have an amnesty on parking charges around pick up and drop off times with an eye to the cost of the school day. The council had no plans to do this.

DG noted that the official signs are not easy to see and asked about the possibility of more noticeable signage.

KC noted that there had been paper leaflets distributed to the community in the first roll out of the scheme but that that hadn't been repeated for the introduction of the restricted zone. She also noted that just because it is a car-free zone, it is not a pedestrian zone.

8. Playground / outdoor learning

A gate allowing access to the cricket ground from the school is going ahead and there is sponsorship to pay for it. The cricket ground would like to be paid for use of the ground, and while it is hoped the school will pay for this in the future AB proposed that the PC pay for the first term or two of this to get the scheme started.

With regard to providing for outdoor learning, various types of shelter were discussed. KC suggested it might be worth approaching Glasgow Wood Recycling with our specific needs. AB, emphasising the need for prompt action, said he hoped to get a range of options and have one picked in the coming weeks. JW mentioned that the Afty have offered to contribute towards the cost of outdoor structures.

9. School meal provision

This discussion was postponed till next meeting.

10. Any other business

DG raised a question from Larissa about getting the code that allows the school to benefit from purchases via the Scholastic book site. KC was enthusiastic about this and said that she would make the code available, noting that Scholastic do provide a good contribution to the school and the importance of that money to purchasing new titles.

Next meeting will be 25 November on Zoom.