



Bruntsfield Primary School Parent Council

MINUTES

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING November 16th 2016

Draft until approved at next PC meeting

	<p>Present: Holly Provan, David Urch, Tara McGregor, Mark Roberts (MR), Carol Kyle (CK), Jonathan Pryce, Barbora Skarabela (BS), Sarour Malaekah, Andrea Thomson, Michelle Brown, Natalie Borrowman (NB), David Rowley, Bill Dorman (BD), Amanda Crawford, Jenna Connelley, Charlotte Dwyer (CD), Elspeth Mackay, Diarmid Rutherford (DR), Pauline Ah-Hot (PA), Carmela Carnicella (CC), Paul Kerr, Loukia Koutsoventi, Isobel Paul, Sam Hart</p> <p>Apologies See below.</p>	
Item		Action
1	<p>Apologies; Sarah Cran, Maeve Fryday, Sarah Macrae, Jen Beattie, Hather Molyneux, Katy Hayne, Fayaz Alibhai, Neil Thomson</p>	
2	<p>Approval Of Minutes from August 31st 2016 Approved</p>	
3	<p>Headteachers report</p> <p>Homework Policy CK identified that it was unlikely that the homework policy would satisfy everyone, but that she felt there was reasonable pedagogical argument <u>for</u> homework. It was noted that more families asked for more homework, than asked for less homework and that homework is not obligatory, and parents are entitled to express that their children will not be doing homework. It was outlined that neither Edinburgh Council, nor L+T Scotland have a position statement which is guiding the school and that can be shared. CK appreciates the need for this and will endeavour to keep the PC updated. CK very much welcomed the opportunity to discuss the homework practices in the School, and was keen to continue a dialogue.</p> <p>There had been a large volume of feedback on the homework</p>	

<p>policy from parents, which will be passed onto CK for reflection. Key issues raised in the feedback:-</p> <p>that there is too much homework, particularly in P1. that there was inconsistency across the classes within year groups. that some children are being kept in at break or lunch for not finishing homework or not finishing school work. There was a lack of clarity regards school practices as to when unfinished work should be done (in school playtime or to be sent home as homework) that there is a greater focus on literacy than numeracy that there did not seem to be much evidence of differentiated homework</p> <p>Some parents found HW useful to get up to speed with what is going on at school, and were very happy with the current homework requirements.</p> <p>Action: CK will: review the feedback sent through to her; remind staff of best current practice asap (specifically consistency and withdrawal of play time for not completing homework), look to review quantity and quality of homework with staff asap (specifically a reduction in homework for P1 pupils), review the homework policy and undertake a consultative approach with the PC to finalise a new policy</p> <p>Uniform MR outlined concerns regards lack of parent consultation, the 'new' BS crest, and limited range of options. Ambiguity over what the uniform policy is was also raised.</p> <p>CK apologises for the upset caused by new uniform, which was on the basis of new design for sport kit, a request for more affordable options, and requests by children to change the logo. The new BS crest is the traditional BS crest. School Blazer are not prepared to run both Navy and Turquoise. Hoodies are felt inappropriate for indoor wear, and will not be reintroduced.</p> <p>Uniform is in the welcome booklet, on the website (https://bruntsfieldprimaryschool.com/information/school-uniform/) and school handbook.</p> <p>The uniform policy states:- The school encourages pupils to wear our school uniform at all times. The school uniform consists of:</p> <p>blue school sweat shirt white polo shirt or white shirt and school tie</p>	<p>CK</p>
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	<p>grey trousers, shorts or skirt house t-shirt for PE Parents should ensure that their children arrive at school dressed in suitable clothes and footwear for the weather. Football tops are not permitted. Hats and hoods must be removed inside the building.</p> <p>Action: Check that the uniform policy where published is clear, and consistent, and includes that it is acceptable to wear both the old and new uniform. Include an update on uniform policy in next newsletter</p> <p>School Crossing Review CK Update; crossing guide assessments have been undertaken, consultants are examining the data, report will be made on 17th Jan and go to the council's Transport and Environment Committee. Paper will be circulated to PC when available.</p> <p>Other items Thank you cards have been sent for those involved in the Playground project. Many thanks to Andrea Thomson for taking the excellent photos for these.</p> <p>ParentPay to allow for school lunches and excursions to be paid for on line planned to go live for January 2017</p>	<p>CK/NB</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Clubs Update Kidzcare proposal update Kidzcare are reconsidering their current commitment to support parent council clubs in the provision of emergency care for the PC and clubs after the end of the current school year. The PC clubs team and office bearers are exploring the best way forward.</p> <p>Weekend football Discussion has been held with weekend football coordinators with regard to integration of weekend football with the PC clubs. Action: Charlotte Dwyer and Diarmid Rutherford will continue discussions with the clubs coordinator team.</p> <p>A note was made that the boys football club did not have a playing strip, whilst other schools did. Action: CK offered to pay for School kit for the boys football team.</p> <p>Swimming club – starting next term but estates problems (boiler) mean that this will need to be continuously reviewed Request for swimming club to be available for P1 pupils. Suggestion that this might be offered for P1 pupils for</p>	<p>BD/PA/CC CD/DR</p> <p>CK</p>

	<p>January 2018 and this will be reviewed for next academic year.</p> <p>Chess club has requested school kit for competition. The School has 50 t-shirts that can be borrowed from the School for this purpose.</p> <p>Club registration for Jan 2017 – opens on Monday 21st November</p>	
5	<p>Parent Council fund priorities</p> <p>Three priorities:-</p> <p>Primrose Fund. PC have intention to support the Primrose fund with a £1500 donation for the current financial year, to be reviewed based on uptake. This is expected to subsidise children attending camp, skiing and other excursions.</p> <p>Buffer. Priority to have a reserve for unforeseen circumstances. Based on a review of accounts, a £4000 reserve (which would cover £2000 float for summer fete) was agreed.</p> <p>Modern languages; paper circulated. PC will support the proposal, and requests that a plan is put in place to collect evidence to establish if the initiative is successful/provides added value. This would inform future plans to bid for external funds to support an on-going programme. The tutor will be paid monthly, in arrears, and the PC commitment will review the initiative at the end of the academic year</p>	<p>MR</p> <p>BS/MR</p>
6	<p>Scottish Government Schools Review https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/empowering-schools/a-governance-review</p> <p>Proposes greater devolution of responsibility to head teachers. Action: Office bearers will gather to propose a response.</p>	MR
7	<p>Communication review Tabled for next meeting</p>	
8	<p>Finance Overview Tabled for next meeting</p>	
9	<p>Events Winter Fair, 26th November</p>	
10	<p>New Boroughmuir Update Access to School over Viewforth bridge Proposal to close Viewforth bridge permanently is being pursued. Currently thought likely to have a temporary closure, with a permanent closure likely to take some time to be confirmed. Action: MR will continue to take council and look</p>	MR

	<p>to present BPC views where appropriate.</p> <p>Impact of development of old school Concern over safety of pupils due to extra planned parking spaces. Consultations expected to be forthcoming.</p> <p>School Roll New School capacity is 1165, in 3 years roll is expected to be 1200. By 2019 James Gillespies and New Boroughmuir combined will exceed the 2500 pupils the two schools can accommodate. Shared use options are being considered to accommodate additional numbers (permanent annexe (Darroch) for senior school pupils to be used by both schools). We should be aware that school rolls are predicted to go way over school capacity and prepared to provide support for alternative expansion options.</p>	
11	AOB	
12	<p>Dates of next meetings (start time 19.00) :</p> <p>Tuesday 31st January 2017 Wednesday 15th March 2017 Wednesday 17th May 2017 Wednesday 14th June 2017</p>	