

Parent Council Meeting 18 November 2020 7.30pm via zoom

1. Introduction

- KG welcomed everyone and declared the meeting quorate.
- Apologies from Jasper Stocker
- KG thanked CK and all staff for the successful return to school and for keeping the school covid-free
- Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

2. Chair's report

- Clubs
 - We are still unable to run clubs.
 - KG reported a motion at the last CEC last education committee to reintroduce outdoor extra-curricular clubs. Very little progress from CEC. CEC continuing to take low risk approach.
 - Parents expressed concerns that privately run clubs are effectively given priority over school's clubs because the CEC risk matrix prioritise the fact that they have an economic reason to run.
 - KG will keep the PC updated
- Gaelic education plan
 - Gaelic High School in City (Possibly Granton, Gilmore Place annex etc.)
 - Consultation on-going.
- Boroughmuir Annex
 - Building work paused.
 - No contractor on projects.
 - Hoping to deliver in time for August 2022 intake.
- St Oswald's
 - Funding applied for from SLF for purchase.
 - Members meeting next Wednesday.
 - All PC members can register as Ordinary Members given catchment
 - KG sits on St Oswald's board.
 - We have been asked if we want to be an ex officio director.
 - We have provided £6k seed funding and we want to see it being used.
 - No conflict of interest if our director is ex officio and role is to promote interests of PC/BPS
 - **Agreed take forward. JF to draft terms of reference.**

3. Headteacher's update (CK)

- CK set out the process if positive covid case was found in the School:
- Every week CK has meeting with H&S team.
 - School works with Health board to decide what might happen.
 - If there is a positive case could impact other bubbles e.g. After School clubs.
 - May impact siblings but only if sibling of positive case.
 - Work back 48 hours to determine self-isolation.
- All PC members and other parents in the meeting gave their thanks to CK and teachers for organising the parent consultations. CK confirmed these were well received by teachers too.
- Parents ask CK about music teaching. CK explained that this was challenging as we can't do singing but she is looking for additional funding to help resolve the issues with music teaching.
- Christmas cards – may have to be within classrooms.

4. Events update (Jenni and Shanda)

- Tea towels and Christmas mas cards distributed this week.
 - Thank you to everyone that helped make this happen.
 - Sold 100 tea towels and 100 packs of cards and raised £3800.
 - KG said this was an amazing result and emphasised its importance given that we cannot run any events.
- December plan is to run a winter windows display for children to download a snowglobe picture and colour and decorate for their windows.
- The idea is to have a simple, easily accessible activity with any donations passed donate to the school or to a charity. KG suggested a donation to a foodbank and the meeting agreed.
- Events budget - £9-10k to spend which would leave a contingency fund.

5. Roads and Travel (Ros Claase)

- CK explained that she has a good connection with local police. Direct contact every day.
- Police are tracing people who break the rules around road closure at drop-off and pick-up times.
- RC updated the meeting on the road closures and the travel safety initiative:
 - Road Closures
 - Temporary enforcement but CEC are moving towards making it more permanent. That will make it visually clearer.
 - Thanks to all parents for continued social distancing. There is agreement amongst all stakeholders that it is working well and that the schools gates are not crowded.
 - More work to be done on co-ordinating drop-offs between year groups/classes..
 - More work on van drivers/tradespeople at drop-off and pick up times.
 - Need to replace school road crossing guards. Viewforth, vacant. Merchiston Ave, Eddie has had to leave the post.
 - RC is working on options to promote hi-vis clothing for children during winter months.
- RC then reported on the CEC Quiet Routes initiative and its application to the road around the school.
 - The PC has given its support in principle for quiet routes around the school - other parent council have also supported it in their areas.
 - This interacts with the “spaces for people” measures brought in to enable socially distancing but the Quiet Routes initiative pre-dates those and we hope will apply permanently to the roads immediately around the school
 - We need to keep our focus on the key roads around the school – we don’t want to be drawn into the debate around wider measures e.g. the parking places on Bruntsfield Place.
 - Remain focussed on any measures that directly improve the position for parents of young families.
- KG and the meeting gave thanks to Ros and team. There has been a very good collaboration on quiet routes – positive experience and good relationship building with communities.

6. Finance (clubs)

- We have a strong balance but we need to be prudent in spending with no new cash coming in.

7. Funding applications

- KG reminded the meeting that the process for funding applications required any applications to be made with supporting detail ahead of the meeting so that all parents could consider them and comment. There is a particular focus in the application on the long-term impact of any funding application. The 25 elected POC members then took the decision.
- CK had surveyed PC members on the open applications prior to the meeting and fed back the PC position.
- **School request £9,500 (would be spend for whole year) to be split across these items**
 - SMART BOARD
 - KG asked CK for more information on this request
 - PC wants to understand whether it is a rolling programme of replacement or just a one-off.
 - Approval pending.
 - CHRISTMAS TREE
 - £125
 - Approved.
 - SUMDOG
 - Approved at 50%
 - BOOKS
 - More information requested.
 - OUTDOOR LEARNING EQUIPMENT
 - More information requested.
 - P7 yearbook
 - £600 already allocated
 - PC members suggest that we underwrite addental costs where fundraising isn't possible.
 - Take to next meeting.

8. AOB?

- There was a discussion on whether PC funds should be used for a wider purpose. It was agreed that the holistic impact of funding requests should form part of the analysis for the open and future funding requests noting that the primary focus of the PC was on BPS.
- Date of next meeting 3 February 2021.