

Bruntsfield Parent Council Meeting 25 August 2021 via Zoom (1930)

MINUTES

- KG opened the meeting noting it was quorate and welcomed everyone to the new term.
- **Minutes from 16 June 2021** – approved
- **Chair's update (KG)**
 - KG is standing down at the next AGM in September and encouraged the parent forum to stay involved in the Parent Council and explained its important role in the school.
 - KG gave her thanks to Les the new crossing guard by Merchiston Place.
 - KG gave an update issues arising from CEC meetings she has attended:
 - i. Empowered learning – this is an £18m project to be phased in over the next 2-3 years for pupils in P6-S6 to have their own device to use for learning wherever they like. P1-P5 – shared devices (ratio TBC). WiFi improvements also being implemented.
 - ii. Outdoor learning – trips to restart in Q3 2021. Council facilities are re-opening (e.g. for camps)
 - iii. New primary school in South Edinburgh – naming to be confirmed. Construction well underway and debate on name on-going– get in touch with KG if you are an affected parent and KG can help you with the consultation process.
- **Headteacher's update (CK)**
 - School works – works have completed in the hall and have gone well. Some works on going in the kitchen.
 - Good start to the year, full classes and lots on energy and enthusiasm.
 - Pupils starting to put their names forward for school roles.
 - Class Bubbles have gone but are retained accross key stages.
 - Dining hall – P1s only at this stage but that will develop in September.
 - CK noted there had been more Covid cases this week than in whole last term so no rush to merge
 - Some staff changes and new recruits – see Carol's blog for details.
 - The two in-Services days in August went well. Zaki launched A+ team and there internet safety was also covered.
 - CK reminded everyone to use the admin email to get in touch with school – leadership team monitor it. And send questions through Jasper our Class Rep co-ordinator.
 - In response to questions parents CK confirmed that:
 - PE days were still TBC but that the information would eb available very shortly
 - The school was ready to return to home learning if required to do so and Teams learning would be maintained to help any transition back to Home Learning if necessary.
- **Treasurer's Report (SD)**
- Currently have £8k for spending on interesting projects that parents want to bring forward (see application form on website) – contact Shanda if you want to have an informal chat first.
- We need an Events Treasurer – great way to get involved and again talk to Shanda or KG.

- **Clubs**
 - KG reminded the meeting that the Parent Council had always run a successful programme of clubs.
 - There are a number of issues in returning to the original set-up including:
 - No access to school (reserved for active schools only)
 - MUC main hall is unavailable
 - CC hall has a low ceiling so is unsuitable for sports
 - Need doorkeepers and tutors
 - Staggered school finish times and lack of testing on Class4 Kids system also presents logistical issues
 - So the focus is on getting a small and achievable number of clubs up and running that will work in the available venues.
 - This is achievable but we need support from new club co-ordinators– please volunteer.
 - KG also outlined an issue with Active Schools which must now be free to all pupils as this prevents them from paying tutors. KG is working with Ton Seagall to consider solutions and potential PC funding. KG will report back to the PC.
- **A+ group**
 - Zaki gave an update on the A+ group (the group Zaki has set up to look at good experiences and places to improve in terms of diversity and inclusion in the school community).
 - The group is meeting the last Wednesday of every month (6-7pm via zoom)
 - The group is looking at CEC changes in policy
 - Zaki attended the recent staff inset day
 - Mandarin translations of key communications are underway
 - KG thanked Zaki for his work.
- **Fundraising**
 - Fairs were key part of fundraising pre-Covid but Covid led us to think of other ideas including Art fairs and Tea Towels.
 - Unlikely the winter fair will work this year so we need other ideas.
 - It was agreed to consider tea towels again this year and possibly Christmas cards (need to liaise with school).
 - PC will also look at event for P1s and P2s in an outside venue.

Role of Parent Council – Ros Claase (VC)

- Ros explained role of PC and invited ideas for other areas for the PC to focus on. See website for presentation.
- Ros stressed that this is a crucial year for rebuilding and the process begins with next months' AGM

AOB

- It was confirmed that music teaching (and tuition) is restarting in the school.

Meeting closed

Next Meetings

- 22 September 2021 (plus AGM)
- 17 November 2021
- 2 February 2022
- 30 March 2022
- 18 May 2022
- 15 June 2022