

Papdale Parent Council AGM
Tuesday 3 September 2019 at 5.30pm
Papdale Primary Staff Room

In Attendance: Wendy Bowen, Michelle Dufort, Kevin Balfour, Tanya Blowfield (Chair), Ruth Drever, Joanne Tait, Dawn Stanger, Katie Croy, Lorna Robertson, Shayron Mooney, Tracy Linklater, Lorraine Clapham, Nicola Reid (minutes).

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Jos Tulloch, Paula Craigie, Craig Spence.

2. Minute of Previous Meeting (17 September 2018)

The minute was agreed as an accurate record. Proposed by Tracy Linklater, seconded by Joanne Tait.

3. Matters Arising

Parking - this is unfortunately still an issue in the areas around the school, it seems to have improved slightly on Willowburn Road but there is now an issue with people driving and parking unsafely around the Hostel and the surrounding residential streets, it was felt that we might need to ask the Police to start checking these areas around school drop off and pick up times.

Parents Evenings - this year there will still be a mixture of early and late appointment slots to choose from, the school is in the process of pricing up the software to enable parents to book their own slots online, this will save staff a lot of precious time. Parents Evening dates are 2 & 3 October 2019, and 25 & 26 March 2020. The Parent Council will run the usual raffle and Bake Sale, Joanne will organise the rota for this.

4. Chairperson's Report

Tanya delivered the following report:-

This last year since September 2018 to present has been another busy year for the Papdale Parent Council. We are lucky to have had a strong and engaged committee and team. I want to thank everyone on the committee for their contribution and help over the past year. Without you all we would not be able to function as a parent council. It has been an interesting time as my first full year as the Chair.

We said goodbye to Mrs Bruce, who retired, Mrs Dufort stepped in for a term and then a huge hello to Mrs Wendy Bowen who has been with us since January 2019. It is great to have such strong support from both Wendy and Kevin at our meetings and so I must extend thanks to them as well.

Our main focus has continued to be on fundraising to assist the school in providing new equipment and items that require some extra financial input. The financial details will be highlighted by Ruth in her role as Treasurer. However, this year has seen the Parent Council donate £5000 to part fund along with the School and Sus-Trans a new covered bike shelter within a safer area in the school playground. The new bike shelters were being

discussed when I first joined the parent council in 2013 so I am delighted the discussions have come to fruition! The bike shelters opened in April 2019 and have been packed with bikes and scooters every day since their instalment. It is great to see the children being able to access the shelters in a safer manner not within the car park and have a dry seat to ride on at the end of the school day. I think we can agree the funding and instalment of this equipment has been extremely beneficial for the children.

We have also continued to provide fifty percent of the costs for the P6 and P7 trips to children who are entitled to free school meals. This has enabled several children to access these trips to Hoy and Lagganlea with their peers and is a valuable and important contribution from the parent council.

Our fundraising has continued to focus on school discos, parents evening stalls and the wonderful November shopping night and photography sessions. I want to extend a special thank you to Katie and Lorna who organised the shopping night and photography sessions and which led to a fantastic sum of money being raised for the school. I know Katie and Lorna have already started planning the shopping night for this November which is an important fundraiser for the school funds. So thank you!

We enjoyed a social gathering in January to the West End Hotel to welcome the new members and Wendy to the parent council and celebrate the long standing members, perhaps we will have another social meal to look forward to in the new year again.

We have enjoyed being involved in the P1 orientation meeting and P1 first day settling in coffee morning this year and have been able to introduce the P1 parents to the parent council and what we do. This is a great opportunity to spread the word of the parent council. Thanks to all who have helped making tea and coffee at these events.

We have had lots of ideas for more ways to spend some funds including the introduction of the See-Saw app, more Ipads/ technology and the Perspex for the display boards in the corridors. We just need Wendy and Kevin to confirm what items are the priority.

We have had some interesting discussions about the constitution and direction of the parent council and this will be an area which will need to be taken forward in discussions over the next year.

It just remains for me to thank everyone again for all their hard work and say a fond farewell to Audrey Waterson who will be stepping down from the committee as her children are no longer attending Papdale, and a huge thank you to Audrey for all her help and contributions on the committee.

5. Treasurer's Report

In the last year we have paid in £5,744.93, almost £2,000 of this amount was from the shopping night and photos.

We donated £5,000 towards the new bike shelters and also contributed to the school trips to Hoy and Lagganlia. In total we paid out £6,683.04, leaving a balance of £5,699.58.

The accounts are currently being audited by Foubister & Bain.

6. Head Teacher's Report

Wendy delivered the following report:-

Thank you to the Parent Council for their support over the past year. This has been a busy year for the Council with the recruitment of the new HT and the retirement of Mrs Bruce. The Christmas Shopping night was a lovely success and we are very pleased with the new bike shelters which are well used. The school discos have been really popular and we are pleased that so many staff members have supported this.

Staffing

Wendy Bowen would like to express her thanks to Michele Dufort for leading the school during the time of Jane Bruce's retirement and to me taking up post.

Congratulations to Jane Bruce MBE on receiving her award from the Queen at Holyrood earlier this summer.

New Senior Leadership Team is now in place. DHTs Michele Dufort / Amy McCracken. Principle teachers being Miranda Johnston – Support for Learning, Darren Peace Early Years, Becky Ewing P4- Upper School. Roles and remits have been established.

Mr Hill has now taken up an Acting Head Teacher position at Firth and Evie Primary School. Miss Sarah Work is covering the vacancy.

Mrs Gemma Morris is working in P2 with Mrs Learmonth, she is also covering for Mr Peace's Principal Teacher Role.

We have two probationer teachers Mrs Kirstin Swanney and Mrs Rona Humphries.

A number of KGS pupils have opted to work here for work experience and volunteering experience.

A big thank you must be extended to the Janitors for helping staff to move classrooms over the summer, which was a huge task.

Standards and Quality Report 2018 – 2019

The Standards and Quality Report is now ready to be published, which details the progress made within our annual improvement plan. This will go live following the Parent Council Meeting.

School Improvement Plan 2019 -2020

The school improvement plan is also live, there will be slight tweaks made to it over the year but we have 4 key priorities for the school year. The plan can be viewed online following the Parent Council Meeting.

- To ensure high quality learning experiences for all our children and to improve attainment in literacy with a particular focus on writing across the school and reading, P1, P4-P7
- To introduce continuous reporting of learning to parents.

- To improve the outcomes of our most vulnerable children through a whole school nurturing approach to education
- To develop the learning experience of pupils in P1 to create an environment which promotes curiosity to learn and explore the world around them building on what they have done in the nursery, thereby building connections in their learning.

Lunch Times

We are pleased to report that the new lunch time arrangements this year has gone well and continues to work with the new P1 classes allowing time for the P1's to eat whilst also having the rest of the school in and out for their dinner time. Long queues have stopped and the hall is a calmer environment.

P1 Entry

We have 66 P1's this year the welcome morning with cuppa on the first day seemed to be well received. Thanks to the parent council for their support. The new layout and environment for P1 is working well but we will be continuing to adapt and adjust as they year progresses. Amy McCracken is working closely with the team.

Parent Forums – With the Head teacher

We would like to run monthly sessions to discuss with parents different aspects of the school improvement timetable. The first will begin this Friday looking at teaching and learning.

Head teacher News

This went out just at the end of the holidays, but I will look at releasing a newsletter etc. once per term this year.

Attainment

As noted in the Standards and Quality Report and reported at June's meeting we need to raise attainment in Writing and Reading. This year's improvement plan will help to ensure that this occurs.

Golden Time

Due to changes in our behaviour policy we have decided to adjust golden time. Golden time was part of a bigger behaviour structure focusing on sanctions and rewards. We will be looking at this as a school after the October holidays so Golden Time for the moment has been suspended. Teachers are running alternative activities during this time in the interim.

Future Projects

We have purchased 18 ipads this will allow each class teacher to upload content to the pupils learning journal. We would be delighted if the Parent Council was able to pay for this cost.

We will purchase Oxford Origins for P4- P7 over the course of this year with PEF funding. We expect that the new books will make reading exciting for the pupils and the staff will be

fully supported in the teaching of reading. These books will not be sent home and pupils are encouraged to read their library book as their home read.

7. Election of Office Bearers

For the role of Chair - Katie Croy nominated Tanya Blowfield, this was seconded by Nicola Reid.

For the role of Vice Chair - Katie Croy nominated Joanne Tait, this was seconded by Tanya Blowfield.

For the role of Treasurer - Nicola Reid proposed Ruth Drever, this was seconded by Tracy Linklater

For the role of secretary - Tanya proposed Nicola Reid, this was seconded by Ruth Drever.

8. Committee Members

All committee members present at the meeting are happy to stay on the committee. Lorraine Clapham can't commit to joining the Parent Council at present but is happy to help out at fundraising events. Nicola will double check that all current members are happy to stay, but assuming that they are, we have the following committee:-

Tanya Blowfield (P2,4 & 6)
Joanne Tait (P4)
Ruth Drever (P2 & 4)
Nicola Reid (P3 & 5)
Rachal Thomson (P6)
Jos Tulloch (P6 & 7)
Katie Croy (P5)
Shayron Mooney (Nursery & P3)
Lorna Robertson (P6)
Tracy Linklater (P7)
Karen Allan (P1 & 7)
Paula Craig (P6)
Dawn Stanger (P4)
Craig Spence (Nursery, P2 & P4)

It was agreed that it would be useful if we could recruit one or two more representatives from Nursery/P1, especially as there are so many changes planned for that end of the school.

9. Future Parent Council Meeting Dates

The following dates were agreed:-

Monday 7 October 2019
Monday 25 November 2019
Monday 3 February 2020
Monday 27 April 2020
Monday 8 June 2020

All meetings will be at 5.30pm

10. AOCB

Advertising of AGM - it was agreed that next year we should add a notification by e-mail and Expressions to all parents to increase awareness of the AGM.

School Uniform - The online poll for the school uniform colours was so close that it has been decided to keep both the Navy and the Royal blue. The light blue will no longer be available to buy. Everyone felt that school uniform should be encouraged. Could there be a system where wearing school uniform earns points for your class? This topic will be added to the agenda for the next Parent Council meeting on 7 October.

Lost property - there is a large volume of lost property again. These items should be checked for names. Better quality items, if not claimed, may be added to the swap shop instead of going to the Blue Door.

Hoy Trip - It had been asked whether the Hoy Trip could be paid for in instalments, including over the summer holidays, the answer is yes.

Children in Need (Pudsey Day) - this will be going ahead again this year. It was agreed that there should be a school-wide decision made on fancy dress rules rather than this being decided by individual class teachers.

Shopping Night - It was agreed that we should specify what we are fundraising for on our shopping night posters. This year's shopping night will be on Wednesday 6 November 2019.

Parent Council Chairs and Head Teachers Meeting - the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 7 November at KGS from 0930 - 1530. Tanya is unable to attend as this is one of her working days, can anyone else attend in her place? We'll add a request to the Parent Council Facebook page.

Funding of iPads - 19 new iPads, with covers, have been purchased. The cost is in the region of £5,000 but Kevin will get the exact figure for us. It was asked whether the parent council would be happy to fund these. All present at the meeting agreed that this would be a good use of funds. Tanya will also check with members not present at tonight's meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 1905.