

HYNDLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of A.G.M. 14th September 2016

PRESENT- John Lewis (Chair), Helen Brown (Head teacher, Hyndland Primary), Garry Byrne (Depute, Hyndland Primary), Fiona Ansdell (Hyndland After School Club), Naheed Cruickshank (Music Club Director), Kevin Bain, Alan Bonnyman, Lorne Bourhill, Rowan Dyer-Wilson, Marsaili Fraser, Stevie Gallagher, Daria Jarrett, Graham McFarlane, Nadia Miller, Saied Pourghazi, Helen Rolph, Becky Smith, Amitkumar Srivastava, Karen Stuart, Susan Taylor, Anni Pues

APOLOGIES: Stephanie Fogarty, Louise Love.

1. Welcome by John Lewis (JL)
2. Music club report/news

Naheed Cruickshank reported on the activities of the school Music Club, directed inquiries about the club to the email address hyndlandmusicclub@gmail.com. JL discussed the fact that Primary 1 in-school music tuition will now be paid for through school and/or parent council funds, after having been kindly provided for free over the last several years.

3. Chair's report

JL handed round 'thank you' cards to the Parent Council and parents and chocolates received from Janny Joe in appreciation of retirement gifts and support over the issue of his home.

JL outlined the Parent Council's role and activities, and encouraged those present to remain involved whenever possible. Fundraising was discussed and an invitation for any new fundraising ideas made.

The traffic situation around the school was discussed, including the ongoing situation on Fortrose St and Gardner St at pick up and drop off times, and the stalled progress of the GCC plans to introduce a one way system on Fortrose St due to their inclusion in the wider area traffic and parking plans. Parents were encouraged to report illegal or dangerous parking or driving to the community police. A further issue was raised of cross guard on sick leave being replaced by the crossing guard from Hyndland Street/White Street not being replaced, leading to a shortage of road crossing assistance around the school. It was undertaken to discuss these issues more fully at the next parent council due to time constraints.

Anni Pues mentioned that she had invited Green Party councillor, Martin Bartos, to come and visit the school

JL reported that the National Parent Forum of Scotland had invited responses to their review consultation before the end of October.

Action

JL would draft an initial response for agreement by the Parent Council and then send around parents and urge them to also respond, using the Parent Council response in its entirety or to adapt as a template/guide.

Action

JL agreed to follow up with GCC regarding the absence of a crossing guard on Hyndland Street/White Street.

Action

P1 parent Anni Pues has invited GCC Green Party councillor, Martin Bartos to come along to observe traffic problems and will notify JL when, so that he can communicate this to parents.

4. Head teacher's report

Helen Brown (HB) reported on the 4Rs refurbishment programme. Latest estimate is that the works will be completed by Easter 2017. The issues of the rubble in the attic space and a longstanding issue with the toilets have been resolved. The repair of the roof of the infant wing has been included in the planned works, unfortunately meaning scaffolding remaining in place for another two terms at least. The gym roof repairs will continue after the October break, scaffolding around the back gate to remain in place.

HB offered thanks to the parents who worked on the "Pennies for Playgrounds" project and the garden in the summer, noted that the kids are enjoying both.

HB reported on staffing. Depute Mrs Reid has left, and the Acting Depute, Ms McLaughlin is the first point of contact for queries regarding P1-3. The school is also looking to recruit a Support Assistant to replace a staff member who left. The Principal Teacher (PT), Ms Chambers is still on maternity leave, with Mrs Julie Wynn currently the Acting PT. Mr Byrne has responsibility for P4-P7.

Results of GCC funding review regarding staff funding will be announced in April 2017.

Garry Byrne (GB) reported on the success of last year's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programme. There was a great parent response to STEM career events and visits from science teachers from Hyndland Secondary. The science programme will continue this year with STEM lessons for P1-7.

HB said there will be an additional broader look at other career options across the school this year, with teaching concentrating on independence and confidence. "Assessment at Hyndland will only ever be diagnostic."

GB discussed other focal points within the school for the year ahead. The house system will be used to promote pupil leadership, with houses given responsibility over specific areas e.g. environmental, GIRFEC, entrepreneurship. GB also noted an emphasis on higher order thinking skills and strategies for problem solving including the introduction of Heinemann Active Maths resources. GB also revealed plans to celebrate pupil achievement in and out of school in public areas and assemblies.

5. Treasurer's report

Alan Bonnyman presented the Parent Council income and expenditure summary (attached as an appendix to these minutes). AB attracted attention to the importance of fundraising in allowing the Parent Council to carry out its work.

6. Fundraising and social events update

JL announced a change of venue for the school ceilidh due to issues with Partick Burgh Hall. The next ceilidh will take place at Hyndland Community Hall on 9th December and will therefore be a BYOB event. The band has also been booked. There was no availability in late November, due to existing bookings that either the hall or the band had. The first Friday in December also clashed with the school staff Christmas night out. Any other fundraising ideas are welcomed, as well as assistance with the quiz night.

Also, JL wanted to thank MOTR for their fundraising activities over the last year, as well as to acknowledge and commend the work that they've done in leading an appeal for children's games for Annette Street Primary School, where over 80% of the children's families don't have English as a first language, and where they don't have an active Parent Council. Last year MOTR also donated their subscription fees to UNICEF and Scottish Women's Aid.

JL also raised a query about how money raised by a MOTR-organised Parent Council parent quiz night for buddy caps should be spent. There appears to be a general aversion among many P6's and P7's to wearing them, in which case this would not be a good way to spend resources. On the other hand, many of the P5 buddies are keen to obtain the caps. Louise Love had suggested (via JL) that tabards/hi-vis vests be used instead, though there was some discussion about whether children who won't wear buddy caps would actually wear hi-vis vests.

Action

JL to speak to seek volunteers to organise and manage the event, as well as look for volunteers to organise and run a parent quiz night, if possible.

Action

JL, HB and GB to explore options about what would be the most likely adornment that might encourage buddies to make themselves visible to the younger children.

7. Garden.

Helen Rolph (HR) gave an update on the work done over the summer on the school and after school club garden, and plans going forward including beginning a gardening club in the school. It was queried whether the “Pennies for Playgrounds” fundraising could be continued to fund further improvements to the garden and outdoor areas for outdoor, environmental and Eco-science learning. HR offered particular thanks to Susan Taylor for her help with the garden over the summer.

Action

Helen Rolph asked for more parent volunteer help with the school garden and pots. They should contact Helen at hjrolph@gmail.com

8. After School Club report

Fiona Ansdell (FA) presented information of the Hyndland After School Club, now operating for 24 years and offering 106 after school places, is open holidays excl. Christmas, the September weekend and several other Bank Holidays and also runs a breakfast club from 8-9. The Afty is currently full Tuesday to Thursday but there are Monday and Friday spaces available.

JL mentioned childcare vouchers through the Childcare Vouchers Scheme can be used for payment of Afty care and Afty breakfast club. He also mentioned that that parents could be made aware that their employers may provide childcare vouchers as part of the aforementioned scheme, for which they get the vouchers in lieu of part of their salary, which also attracts some PAYE and NI reduction.

Action

JL suggested that the Afty may wish to consider providing information to parents about the Childcare Voucher Scheme, as they may be unaware that it applies to the Afty and its breakfast club.

9. New chair and member nominations

The following new Parent Council members were nominated and passed:

Existing re-nominations were agreed.....

P2 Parent Rep – Stephanie Fogarty

P3 Parent Rep – Daria Jarrett

P4 Parent Rep and Treasurer – Alan Bonnyman

P5 Parent Rep and Chair – John Lewis

P6 Parent Rep – Louise Love

P7 Parent Rep – Lorne Bourhill

Additional Member – Janie Pickrell

Additional Member – Arshad and Ambreen Hussain (alternating)

Community Member – Fiona Ansdell (The Afty)

.....as were new nominations:

Secretary – Nadia Miller

P1 Rep – Graham McFarlane

Additional Member – Susan Taylor

The additional Community Rep post remains unfilled. JL had tried to reengage the existing Community Rep (other than Fiona Ansdell) last year, and also tried to encourage some local city Councillors several times, but received no responses.

10. Proposed dates of next meetings-

Wednesday 2nd November (moved from 12th October)

Wednesday 30th November (moved from 23rd November)

Wednesday 18th January

Wednesday 22nd February

Wednesday 29th March

Wednesday 26th April

Wednesday 24th May