

HYNDLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (ONLINE)

MINUTES FOR 23 SEPTEMBER 2020

Present: Helen Brown (Head Teacher), Stephen Frame (Deputy Head), Julie Wynn (Deputy Head), Naheed Cruickshank (Music Club), Paddy Morrison (Afty), Alan Bonnyman (Chair), Chris Bryce (Treasurer), Dorian Grieve (Secretary & P4 rep), Katie Brady Patterson (joint P7 rep), Jaime Guenther (P2 rep), Stevie Gallacher, Selim Terhzaz, Helene Geoffroy, Maria Sindico, Francesco Sindico, Raquel Solis Pirie, Susan Kesson, Lindsey Pope, Julian Hopkins, Simon Naylor, India Fullerton, Miriam McKean, Niraj Talukdar, Sokratis Stoumpos, Nicola Thomson, Patrick Bayer, Priyanka Sable, Meena Pandit, Jaye Clarke, Helen Hucker

Apologies: Arshad Hussein (P6 rep), Clare Clacherty (joint P7 rep), Kirsty Chambers (PT)

1. Welcome & apologies

2. Music Club information

NC introduced the Music Club. In more normal times, music club is after school on a Monday, starting in P2 they learn about pulse, pitch, rhythm and reading notation, in P3&4 they take up an instrument with 30 mins instrument lesson and 30 mins choir. On average there are 100 children across the primary school in the club. In P1 lessons are during class hours. Instruments on offer are: violin, guitar, whistle, flute and djembe. At the moment, however, none of this is possible. Group singing and playing of wind instruments isn't allowed. Online Zoom group lessons have been continuing and it is really hoped that the club can continue at some point in the future. Any questions can be sent to hyndlandmusicclub@gmail.com

3. After School Club information

PM provided an update on the Afty. Afty is currently split into separate groups: P1s&2s, P3s, P4s&5s and P6&7s, with the same staff working with same groups each day as far as possible. They are continuing to manage to provide both indoor and outdoor space. The number of spaces being offered dropped from 106 to 84 but has been recently been increased to 93 and they hope to increase it back to 106 when possible. There is still a big waiting list with Friday being the only day that currently has space.

The Afty has managed to access funding to help with increased costs related to the pandemic, a portion of which will go towards building a permanent outdoor shelter in the area behind the Afty. City Play are drawing up plans for the shelter which will also be available for school use.

Regarding the intruder in August, a man barged his way past the member of staff on the door and caused quite a bit of damage, however no one was hurt, the police arrived quickly and the man was arrested. Security has been tightened up around the school since this incident.

He concluded by thanking the SLT, janitors, office staff and teachers for all their support over this period.

AB said that the PC might be able to chip in for the shelter with PM replying that, similarly, if there were other areas where the PC is planning to build things of this sort the Afty might also be able to chip in and suggesting perhaps getting together to see if we can come up with any further ideas.

4. SLT report

HB thanked everyone for their support, and thanked the PC for making funds available as a source of emergency funds to help HPS families. She introduced Julie Wynn as the new Deputy Head and thanked Kirsty Chambers for the last 2 ½ years as Acting Deputy Head. Three 6-month PT

positions are being advertised to support the curriculum for recovery focussing on outdoor learning, digital platforms and health and well-being.

Janny John will return next week and passes on thanks to everyone for their good wishes.

There have been difficulties with cars still parking on the zig-zags and dangerous behaviour on the roads, she urged everyone to be as careful as possible. There is a proposal to reduce access around school during pick up and drop off times after the October week. The school has asked if Maureen McKenna could provide parking permits for staff as essential workers, this has so far been declined.

Claire Campbell retires tomorrow after 17 years and HB invited people to send their good wishes.

Re after-school clubs, all non-teaching spaces are currently allocated to the Aftly which has priority and there is a struggle to find spaces for the clubs. The music club will be back as soon as possible, but current advice is that there should only be essential staff in the building.

It won't be possible to hold parents evenings this year but there will still be a catch up with parents. Various options for this are being discussed and a decision will be reached during the October in-service day and announced after the October Week.

Homework hasn't kicked back in. Because of the emphasis on not transferring items between home and school, the school is reluctant to use paper-based homework. They are looking at digital platforms for this and aiming to roll out digital-based homework across the school after the October Week.

A newsletter detailing all of this will be put out by the end of the week. People should feel free to email the school with any queries but are requested not to use the home-learning inbox which will only be activated again if there is a return to home-learning.

JW introduced herself as the new Deputy Head. She was a P6&7 class teacher at HPS since 2013 and became Acting Principal Teacher in 2016. Among other things her remit covered literacy in the upper school, support for learning, working with PSAs, nurture provision and working closely with children with dyslexia and ASD. After that she was involved in supporting Kirsty in the upper school, including being involved with transitions, P3 to 4 and P7 to senior school. Although transition was very different this year they made sure that the outgoing P7s did not miss out entirely, holding a virtual assembly of the P7s along with other events.

Since the schools were closed in March, she has been working with Bernardos who were able to provide funding to help support some families who were struggling with difficulties arising from the lockdown and has also made good contacts with foodbanks which have also helped Hyndland families. Although the lockdown was called in the middle of the **Doonans** residential visit this year, it was nonetheless excellent. There is a P7 residential trip pencilled in for March but at the moment it isn't possible to know whether that can go ahead. She will be in touch about that as soon as anything concrete is known. She urged everyone to feel free to contact her in the playground, by email, or via the office.

SF introduced himself as the Deputy Head for P1-3 with responsibility for P1 transitions and for English as an additional language and development of literacy across the school.

The school is operating a recovery curriculum concentrating on reconnecting staff and learners in the first instance. This is going well and the children are proving very resilient. The recovery curriculum is a reduced curriculum with a focus on health and well-being first and foremost. There has been a period of adjustment as kids get used to new systems of hygiene, etc. within the school. Regarding literacy and numeracy, the first term is being spent with teachers establishing exactly where individual pupils are at, using that as a basis for planning for future learning. The school has been maximising the use of outdoor space, not just for PE but for outdoor learning. There have been a number of online surveys. The main concerns about return to school coming from these have been around blended learning, which has not happened although

contingency plans remain in place, and around the logistics of managing enhanced hygiene procedures, etc., which have been going well.

The P1 transition this year was delivered in social-distanced groups of 7 pupils over the course of a week and proved to be a very positive experience.

Strings tutors for violin and cello have been found space in the dining hall following the September weekend.

KBP asked if it would be possible to move the trip towards summer to increase the chance of it going ahead. JW said that the current trip had to be booked last year and that trips have generally been booked around March not to coincide with the bulk of P7 transition events. She will see if it is possible to move but noted that later slots are likely to have been taken already by other schools.

Niraj asked when homework would resume with AB noting that it had already been promised after the October week.

JH asked how best to communicate with teachers. JW said the first point of contact is with the office.

5. Financial report

Fundraising has clearly been curtailed as a result of the lockdown. Some of the money sent to the school may be coming back to the PC but it might still be required so it will remain with the school in the short term. That money was originally earmarked for playground improvements, and the PC will be looking at outdoor improvements going into winter. [See statement, attached]

6. The role of the Parent Council

AB outlined the role of the PC, to support the school and its work with pupils, to represent the views of parents to the school and also to the City Council and the Department of Education, also to encourage links between the community and the school, pupils, and parents, and to report back to the parent body. He encouraged as many people as possible to sign up to the PC mailing list. Further the PC has a role in the appointment of the senior leadership team.

7. Appointment of year representatives

All reps but one have confirmed they are willing to continue in the role, with the P1 rep position needing to be filled. Susan Kesson and Lindsey Pope both volunteered for the role.

8. Election of officers

The officers remained unchanged.

9. Sub-committee information

Currently the PC has two sub-committees.

The fundraising committee is looking for anyone with ideas for fundraising or who would like to help out; they should email hpsparentcouncilfundraising@gmail.com Similarly anyone interested in helping out with playground improvements should email hpsparentcouncilplayground@gmail.com

CB encouraged everyone to do their online shopping through the easyfundraising app, as a great way to continue bringing money in to help with improvements in the playgrounds and elsewhere while traditional fundraising activities like ceilidhs and quiz nights continue to be curtailed.

10. Any other business

JG had talked to a parent whose child had experienced a long wait for the toilets. HB that she was aware of this and that there would be further info in the forthcoming newsletter.

Next meeting will be 21 October on Zoom.