

HYNDLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL MEETING (ONLINE)

MINUTES FOR 20 JANUARY 2021

Present: Helen Brown (Head Teacher), Stephen Frame (Deputy Head), Kirsty Chambers (PT), Fiona Batista (PT), Victoria Moir (PT), Kate Kitson (PT), Alan Bonnyman (Chair), Chris Bryce (Treasurer), Dorian Grieve (Secretary & P4 rep), Steven Gallacher, Katie Brady Patterson (joint P7 rep), Jaime Guenther (P2 rep), Susan Kesson (joint P1 rep), Mark McCluskey

Apologies: Julie Wynn (Deputy Head), Clare McDowall, Lindsey Pope (joint P1 rep).

1. Welcome & apologies

2. Approval of AGM minutes

The minutes were approved. AB wondered if they could be published on the website. **DG said he would do so.**

3. Senior Leadership Team report

(HB) The school has undertaken a digital inclusion survey to ensure digital equality across the school. Bikeability has started back up with Mr Gibson. FB and Miss Leslie have both made successful grant applications. Miss Leslie's class won £150 to augment existing outdoor structures and FB's class won £997.36 from Partick Housing Association's Bright Ideas fund. SF will be talking about a brand new online reading resource the school has invested in. Curriculum overviews went live last month and the staff are preparing Interim Reports in place of parent's night which will be out on 14 December. There will be an online panto for the kids and they will still be having class parties. The Christmas tree is arriving next week. P1 and P7 will be making decorations for it. Christmas post will go ahead with letters being quarantined. The school is still working with other agencies to combat financial hardship around the pandemic and staff have contributed to a fund which is being used to distribute vouchers to families who are having difficulties.

4. New Principal Teachers

Fiona Batista, currently teaching P7s, introduced herself as PT with a remit for outdoor learning and increasing knowledge of sustainability. The school has won £150 for outdoor shelters from the Dickie foundation. Classes had to come up with ideas themselves and present them online. P6B made the winning bid. The school has also won £997.36 from the Partick and Thornwood Ideas Fund for playground equipment. P7s were asked to suggest ideas for this equipment and among these were: ground coverings for seating, woodland activity kit, gardening kit, an insect study centre, trundle wheels, orienteering pack, javelins, stopwatches, measuring tapes and stopclocks[?]. FB has met with Sowing Seeds, a company that works with schools in Glasgow to create outdoor learning areas. They will need some idea of a budget before proceeding but came up with a number of good ideas, among them an imagination station for the P1 playground. Regarding sustainability, she is hoping to introduce an assembly challenge to increase awareness of sustainable development goals and the ways in which they might be achieved across the school.

Victoria Moir, also currently teaching P7s, introduced herself as PT with a remit concerning digital learning. As a result of the digital equity survey, the council has allocated the school 18 iPads and also Myfi kits to connect them. These will be supported by Glasgow Life and the Scottish government is funding that support for one year in the first instance. The survey identified 28 families in need of a device but, owing to huge demand, only a percentage of the request was provided, however the school has some legacy iPads which it will be able to provide if there is a return to blended learning. Also as a result of this demand, P6 pupils won't be able to receive one-

to-one iPad-provision this year. In the coming weeks VM will be providing training to Pupil Support Assistants on the iPads and has also been training other teachers across the city on this subject. Along with SF, she has been running the house elections with 130 pupils in P3, P6 and P7 putting themselves forward for the roles of Junior, Vice and Senior Captains. They each provided a poster and these were viewed and voted on last Friday, however because of absences with pupils self isolating in P6 and 7, winners will not be announced till 7 December to allow those pupils a chance to vote also.

Kate Kitson, currently working 3 days a week across the two P4 classes, introduced herself as PT. She is working on literacy with SF and specifically looking at writing and ensuring progression of targets throughout the journey from P1 to P7. The other part of her remit is to look at diversity and equity: auditing resources, contexts and provisions within the school to see if these truly reflect the society we live in, not just within the school community but across Scotland and beyond. She has also been working as a police liaison and today had a meeting with Barry, an officer who is keen to build closer ties to the school.

SF thanked the new PTs for the enormous amount of work they are doing. As a result of the pandemic, books can't currently be sent home and the school have been trialling different programmes which will allow parents and carers to continue reading with their children at home. Rising Stars Reading Planets and Oxford Owls were trialled and, after discussion, Rising Stars was brought in for P1-3 and this may be extended for P4-7. It is a bank of digital books and audio versions of those books, accessed via a website, from which the teachers will be able to allocate to their pupils. Setting this up requires a lot of admin entering the pupils onto the system but the staff have been asked to prioritise this and it should be launched on Monday.

FB reported that the order for Christmas cards has gone in and that Paddy has judged the entries for the calendar which should be available for order shortly. KC said that the various useful links provided by Emma McFarlane have gone up on the school website and that the fundraising banners are now there too. HB added that the newsletter will be going out on Friday and will contain a link to Scholastic Books.

4. Financial report

There is currently £4023.53 in the bank. Upcoming expenses include £938 for P7-leavers' hoodies and also a sum for Christmas books, **awaiting HB's invoice**. AB thanked CB for doing all the heavy lifting on the rocket fund which has raised £3000 from the school community and means that the third shelter can now be ordered from Glasgow Wood Recycling.

5. Homeschooling and digital learning provision

AB read a letter from a P1 parent suggesting a daily video discussing lessons from their teacher would help pupils connect and observing that P1s have so little experience of school they become quickly disengaged. SF has been speaking with staff about providing a regular message and although specifics have yet to be sorted out all agree that this is important.

AB, DG passed on the number praise

praise

asked various questions that have been raised by parents and carers.

Noting that the issue of home-reading books has been raised a lot as one of the main ways parents know how their children are progressing AB asked if the Rising Stars platform will answer

that need. HB replied that while they will continue to use physical books in school this resource does seem to be the next best thing for home-reading in the short term.

Regarding lack of digital contact, and noting rumours of ongoing contact in other schools, AB asked if this was a result of Glasgow City Council policy. HB said that for parents' night, although they had been looking at different options, the school was told categorically there was to be no video or phone calls, a decision of the local negotiating committee between the local authority and the unions. AP asked what the logic behind the decision might be. HB supposed that it may be to do with issues around workload management and security while noting that only the decision itself, and not the background to it, is made available by the local authority.

There have been a lot of queries around homework. AB asked if the use of Seesaw is standardised across the school. HB said that it is used in different ways by different classes depending on how individual teachers wish to use it. DG asked whether the possibility of quarantining jotters, mooted at the last meeting, was still being considered. HB confirmed that it was.

AB asked about the scale of children off self-isolating. Following a positive test from an adult in Afty, there are 29 pupils off in P6 and 7, a relatively low number thanks to Afty and school bubbling procedures.

Following up on the new reading resource, AB asked if everyone will have the technology required to use it. VM said that the 18 new iPads will be arriving next week but that their allocation is dependant on getting the contracts back from parents. They should be in place before Christmas.

7. School meals provision/Cordia

AB has been in touch with Donna Harrison, the local Cordia manager, who said she would be interested in hearing our issues and would be happy to invite a group of parents along to a lunch service to discuss these. He distributed the school meals survey from earlier in the year and asked if anyone would like to raise any further issues.

HB noted that the Council had committed to having a cooking kitchen in every school in 2015. LP, who works as a GP, expressed worries about the nutritional value of some of the meals and noted the importance of equity of access to nutritious meal.

A preponderance of fast food was noted and there was general dissatisfaction that the food currently arrives by taxi from the Gaelic school. AB noted a consensus that getting the on-site kitchen open would make a positive difference. **AB will email Donna Harrison**

8. Playground shelters

(AB) We have quotes from a number of companies. Glasgow Wood Recycling have come back with by far the most competitive quote. A few nationwide companies have also returned quotes but these were double the cost per square metre. City of Play has asked for £560 up front to provide a proposal. GWR have quoted £13,350 for three structures: a 5x5m structure between the two trees behind the Afty, a 7x3m structure running along the path in playground 3, and a 5x3m in the P1 playground. Afty have offered to contribute £5000 from their budget toward this and a similar amount might be able to be raised from local businesses. For the shortfall we are looking at a crowdfunder and there are also a number of charitable trusts we could apply to.

VM suggested rocketfund as a good platform for crowdfunding.

A canopy over stairs at the glass entrance has been proposed, though this would probably require an architect.

The PC agreed to go ahead with the GWR quote and fundraising for that.

9. Fundraising

(AB) At the moment the PC has expenses but no income. We have been pushing the easyfundrasing app but need to look for other ideas in the New Year.

CM said that it might be worth pausing the work with Sowing Seeds, which will also incur substantial expenses, while the work on the shelters is carried out.

AB appealed for anyone with a good idea for fundraising to get in touch.

10. AOB

JG asked about situation with the car-free zone. HB has asked Glasgow Council for more visible signage and the council has sent people to monitor how effective the zone is proving.

There was a question about whether it is allowed to bring Christmas presents into school, HB said if children do want to bring in gifts these can be quarantined but that it is important no one should feel any pressure to do so.

CM has been asked by some parents to make inquiries regarding homework and this is being dealt with by SLT directly.

KBP passed on the fact that a lot of parents had said how impressed they were with the way the school has managed children who have had to self-isolate and with the work packs they have been given.