

Gordon Primary School Parent Council AGM
13th September 2021

Present: Mr Wilson, Mr Devlin, Mrs Lochhead, Fiona, Roni, Maria, Yvonne, Mariana, Lucy R, Amanda, Ailsa, Louise

Apologies: Anna (happy to be involved in coming year), Mrs Cargill

Chair's report

Not much has happened in the past year, although the Parent Council has paid for some things for the school. It has been hard to do very much given the restrictions, and difficult to fundraise. Time has been spent researching funding: Scotmid bid for funding for garden equipment, including shed, tools, etc.; Just Giving page not working as well as hoped.

Connect Training courses coming up; anyone is welcome to attend (will add to Facebook page)

Headteacher Update

The last three academic years have been impacted in some way by COVID. Despite all the challenges faced, the school still looked at making improvements. Discussion of the School Improvement Report Summary and School Improvement Plan Summary (one each for the school and the nursery) (to be attached when minutes circulated).

One aim was to ensure all staff have a thorough understanding of current research and promote a professional learning structure within the school. One of the changes has led to learning intentions being shared with children to help them understand what is expected.

Reporting of pupil progress will be enhanced in the coming year: the overviews will state what learning is happening, and Showbie will let parents see examples.

This year there was a number of training opportunities for staff, giving them an improved understanding of nurture and inclusion. Looked at wellbeing indicators with the children. Children designed characters to highlight different aspects of wellbeing – the most popular were sent to a graphic designer. Mr Devlin to introduce the wellbeing characters in the newsletter. Wellbeing webs have been introduced to see how children are feeling. If the nurture section of the web is below 5, then the child is introduced to kitbag session, etc. The nurture interventions vary: kitbag, 1-to-1, Mighty Mo (reducing anxiety through stories and drawing), friendship group are all going ahead. Data shows it is making a difference. Coaching is being developed at cluster level.

Staffing

Shona Connell is a new addition to the school. She is sometimes in classes, sometimes in the playground, part supporting children with numeracy or literacy additional requirements.

Jill Housen has joined as a Modern Apprentice, so spends half her time in the nursery and the rest at college.

Nursery is able to accept funded places for two year olds; one has joined which means another member of staff will be required. This post will be advertised this week.

Mrs Clark's contract was extended until Easter 2022. Now three or four adults are outside at any given time. Security cameras were also installed around the school over the summer.

Parent Council roles

Confirmed roles remain the same.

Chair: Roni

Treasurer: Maria

Secretary: Louise

Treasurer Update

Paid 50% of cost of P7 hoodies (very well received by pupils and parents). Query regarding timing of hoodies. It was initially planned that pupils should receive hoodies after Easter, but it was suggested that maybe P7s could be given them now to be worn at sporting events, etc.? It was felt that giving the hoodies too early may reduce the novelty, so will remain as being given after Easter. Query over changing the colour of P7 jumpers since they mark really easily!

Other funds paid out: £100 for P7 trip;

Income: £69.20 for rag bag + £0.33 interest, giving a closing balance of £2543.

Money due: Easy fundraising for £46.82 + £23 from cheque that went missing earlier in the year.

Noted that more parents need to use the Easy Fundraising tool. Balance is now approx £2590.

Communication

New email address was set up for every parent council in Scotland.

School website: some web pages have been updated, but more work needs done. School section of the website also needs updated. The website needs to be used more often since not all parents use Facebook. Mariana offered to help Roni. Noted that we need to try to get more people involved, including the new families.

Outdoor equipment

Various options researched, but Lottery was not interested unless there had been public consultation, etc.; Council funding would only be given if the project was community-based. Just Giving page will run out in November, so we need to decide what to do. Do we promote Just Giving? Let it go? SBC HQ has also been asked about funding, and they are reluctant to support trim trails due to maintenance costs. Should alternatives be considered, such as concrete ping pong tables; playground markings which set out an obstacle course, etc.? Needs to be a parent-school partnership for the development of the playground. Possibly some funding from Housing Association but this will need to be followed up again.

Fundraising

Fundraising meetings should start again. Noted the sponsored walk brought in a lot of money. Enterprise initiatives can work well, and are part of the school programme. The idea is to give £5 to the children to spend it in some way to raise funds e.g. buying ingredients and baking cakes to sell. Query over access to schools out of hours. This will be reviewed again in the next fortnight. Suggestion to come up with fundraising ideas and check with Mr Wilson to see if regulations will allow. Mr Wilson to confirm whether evening lets are acceptable.

Future funding needs

Swimming is unlikely to take place this year.

Nursery has just ordered about £1000 of equipment.

New technology is required – new projector being installed for P4/5 (£150). Speakers needed for P6/7 (£300).

Regular addition of books to the library would be useful.

P7 leaver trip and Christmas fund still required.

New windows are being installed; have asked for new blinds and some external painting.

Would like the four boards outside to be updated. Possibly a board covering each of the following topics:

- GPS Vision and Values (once reviewed)
- Nursery

- Wellbeing
- Fundraising thermometer

DH Design, Kelso quoted £850 + VAT for metal signs with laminate cover (at least 10 years life expectancy); or £240 for the same type of boards currently in place. £240 quote from the graphic designer. Would this be acceptable to be funded/ part funded by the Parent Council? Main concern is not to spend all the funding. Need to consider whether we would like the information on the boards to still be on there in 10 years. Noted that the Vision etc. will take some time to develop: pupils, staff, parents, wellbeing team, etc. will all need to be consulted.

School photographs

Tempest has been cancelled. Yid Photography has been booked – he was supposed to come in two weeks' time, but COVID rules mean he cannot. He has offered to take photographs as soon as possible.

Opportunity to have personalised Christmas card/ towels/ calendars etc. through a company – they print the child's design and parents can order it. Some funds can be raised for the school in this way, but design must be with the company by the end of October. Mr Wilson to pass on information.

Covid close contact update

If a COVID case is in the school, the school will **not** contact close contacts. For example, if Child A has symptoms, has positive test, stays home, children sitting at the same table will not be contacted.

Hockey tournament has not been confirmed. Decision still to be taken on attendance; some expressed concern about mixing with many other schools.

Actions

Summaries of School Improvement Plan and Report to be circulated with the newsletter (Mr Wilson to send to Roni)

Mr Devlin to introduce the wellbeing characters in the newsletter.

Mr Wilson to pass on information regarding personalised Christmas cards etc.

Mr Wilson to confirm whether evening lets are acceptable.