Greenhills Primary School Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting 29th October 2018

Present: Anne-Marie Kean, Carol Gallacher, Debbie Hutton, Fiona Fadhli, Suzanne Campbell, Jo Gilchrist, Elaine Johnston and Cllr Fiona Dryburgh

Apologies: Kelly Carlin, Megan Carvel, Scott McPhilemy, Nikki Ballantyne, Pauline Fraser.

No contact from Carrie-Anne Burt.

Minutes

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed by Anne-Marie Kean and seconded by Carol Gallacher.

Matters Arising

Mrs Johnston said that a letter would be coming out inviting all parents to the parents and partners evening. This letter will be sent out w/c 5th November.

Head Teacher’s Report

The 2 charities chosen by the Pupil Council are Kilbryde Hospice and Spina Bifida Charity.

Miss Fox has left and Miss Black has replaced her. The job will be advertised for Miss Fox’s position. Mrs Bell will also be leaving but there is no date for this yet. A Depute Position is to be advertised and once this is filled the Principal Teacher may also be advertised also.

We are looking at setting up the Parent Council as a charity. This needs to be done through OSCR, The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. We need to fill in the forms and nominate a representative from the Parent Council to sit on the board along with 2 staff members from school.

The Parent Council have been given their own room and this can be used officially as of Monday. This has been painted but has no furniture. There is no budget for this but a few suggestions of sourcing free or cheap sofas/chairs and a shelving unit were all made.

The benchmarking for literacy has been taking place this month. There has been and may possibly still be movement for some of the children but this has all been positive and in the right direction. Some will also be reassessed in December but most not again until May.

Additional support with the 5 minute box has been available. This has ran a few times and will continue to run for anyone who needs it. The staff have seen a huge difference in the confidence and self-esteem of the children. There will be letters going out this week explaining as much. The school are also supporting children with Dyslexia and have been giving them the reading material at a level they can cope with but then have been reading to them to allow them to excel with comprehension. This is also making a huge difference to the confidence and behaviour of the children.
It is allowing them opportunities to learn the phonics they need to but also allowing access to the more advanced content that is challenging them.

**Breakfast Club**

The Breakfast Club is still also really successful and we have 20 regular children. We have around 18 spaces available and this information will be in the newsletter. The applications for the Breakfast Club will be made available on the school website or from the office. Cllr Dryburgh mentioned that she has spoken with Tony McDade as every school should have a council run Breakfast Club by August. However, they are unclear of all the details. The issue of children who get buses to school being excluded from the Breakfast Club, due to time constraints, was also raised but no suggestions were made.

It was suggested that we perhaps have a stall at our Christmas Fair to help raise funds for the Breakfast Club. It was also mentioned that in 6 months time, we become eligible to apply for grants from places such as Greggs and Kelloggs. Morrisons are going to give us vouchers as well. Anne-Marie brought up the concept of returning plastic bottles to the machine at Morrisons and using a More card to build up points to then buy supplies. It was also mentioned that perhaps Cllr Dryburgh can talk with Peter at Morrisons to see if we can get an account set up allowing parents/pupils to return plastic bottles and put them on the school account.

Mr McPhilemy is still absent so his assembly will be postponed.

There will be a Nativity for the nursery, P1 and the P1/2 children. The P3-P7 children will be involved in a show in the New Year, perhaps around February.

Elaine said that she has ordered the Christmas tree and it will be in the school in time for our Christmas Market. It was also mentioned that there are over 30 stalls currently booked for the market already and that Santa has been booked.

Carol mentioned that she has had a few queries concerning the Christmas Jumper 4Day and asked if we would be having one this year. It was decided that this would not be happening. We then had a discussion about Poverty Proofing schools and how days like Dress Down Day become very stressful for families who cannot afford to go out and buy new outfits for such occasions. Elaine also said how they are putting families forward for help at the festive period via St Vincent de Paul.

We had a discussion regarding a swap meet or upcycle event whereby people can bring along things they do not want or no longer need and are in good condition, uniforms were suggested. The idea is you leave this event with things you may need, swap something or just receive items, a swap or shop! Elaine suggested we run one in January/February time and another in perhaps May.

**Treasurer's Report**

The statement as of 5/10/18 shows £3,005.75 in the account.

£118.15 was made at Gary Dunn.
£637.45 was made at the coffee morning.
£TBC was made at the Halloween Disco.
Elaine has asked if the Parent Council would pay for the new awards that they will be giving out. Children did a competition to design an award and this will be given out. We need to purchase multiple gold, silver and bronze medals for the various classes. Cllr Dryburgh mentioned giving an award to the school but the details of this need to be finalised. Elaine asked if anyone could think of an award that we could give to P1-P5 as all other awards are more focussed on upper school.

The loss of flu immunisation forms was raised due to the data protection issues this raises. There was no real conclusion as this is unknown at the moment. The forms were picked up by the immunisation team but have since been lost. Children who did not receive this are now struggling to get this done at their doctor surgeries. A plan was proposed for next year to prevent this happening at the school end whereby we implement tick sheets. It was also suggested that we ask the authority if any other schools have had the same issue.

The issue was also raised of the children from the Breakfast Club being left unsupervised in the playground from 8.45am. Elaine was unaware of this issue and will look into it.

There have been many complaints regarding the school photographer. Some parents think that the photographs are not very good and the packages offered are not good value for money. Elaine said to forward any complaints to the office so that we can get a better idea of how many people are not happy.

There was an issue raised regarding the Stay, Play and Learn. The school are aware of this already and it is being dealt with.

It was mentioned that there are a lack of P4 clubs. It was explained that teachers and volunteers run the clubs. If they do not have the staff or people able to do this, then unfortunately, they cannot run clubs with the P4s at the moment.

Lastly, we discussed bag packing and we are doing this again in February and May next year.

Next Meeting – Monday 26th November 2018.