Greenhills Primary School Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting 25th February 2019

Present: Elaine Johnston, Councillor Dryburgh, Councillor Buchanan, Scott McPhilemy, Anne Marie Kean, Kelly Carlin, Carol Gallacher, Debbie Hutton, Megan Carvel & Joanne Gilchrist

Apologies: Suzanne Campbell.

Minutes
Minutes of previous meeting were agreed by Anne Marie and seconded by Carol.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Correspondence

Anne Marie received information about an online tutor for Maths & English for children from 4-14 years. The price was £2.95 per session with 10% of that price going towards school funds. Mrs Johnston asked the group what they thought of this but as there was little information available and it was agreed that Anne Marie would find out more about it. Mrs Johnston reminded everyone that the school could not support this company due to SLC policy but if individuals wanted to use the company they should feel free to do so.
Anne Marie has spoken to David Hinshelwood and Charlie Sneddon regarding trees for the playground area with drainage issue. Charlie will take some advice then organise a meeting with Anne Marie. Anne Marie told group about a package from Woodland Trust with trees that are low maintenance and good for drainage.
Mrs Johnston advised that Shotts prison is on the iproc system so if the Parent Council were considering ordering benches from them we could purchase them through the school as we do not pay VAT.

Head Teacher’s Report

PEF – 2019/2020 £125,280

PEF Spend to Date
Literacy £84,585.60
Maths £7,373
Health & Wellbeing - £30,987
ICT - £15,000 (Still to be invoiced)
1 Teacher and 2 Support Assistants for part of the year.

In-service Day – Mrs Johnston explained that during the In-service Day we finalised our new writing policy which staff will implement from April.

The Cost of the School Day – Recap from last meeting
Uniform will be given to the church.
Nursery parents being encouraged to let children stay for lunch. Saving parents £1.38 per day.
Mrs Westwater (Cook in Charge) provides samples for the children to taste.
School are researching the cost of school branded water bottles. Debbie offered to get a price for this product.
Councillor Dryburgh spoke to Tony McDaid regarding earlier payment of clothing grant. Tony confirmed this could be a possibility but would investigate this.

8am Travel to School – How can the school help with this.
Mr Philemy told the group that when our ‘travel to school ‘surveys are conducted that
the results show most of our children walk to school. The cost of our P7 transitions visits are covered by the school. School trips are subsidised. We have many after-school and lunchtime clubs run by teaching staff. All children invited from appropriate primaries but only a few ASN children take part. Joanne asked about procedure when a child does not turn up to an after-school club as she had not received a text until 3:25pm. Mrs Johnston said that we would investigate this and would ensure that parents were sent text sooner in future. Carol asked about how it was decided which children went to handball and Mr McPhilemy explained that when a club is oversubscribed the names are drawn out of a hat. Mrs Johnston asked the group if they had any other ideas that would help children access school clubs. The opinion was that the school were doing everything they could.

**Learning at School** – Breakfast club is free of charge. All P1 – P3 children receive free school lunches as well as some P4-P7 children. Trips are subsidised
Pencils, rubbers & rulers etc given out to children as well as other items they may need in the course of the school day.
Named brands are discouraged within the school. Plain black gym shoes are all that is required for indoors.
Mrs Johnston explained that we charge for lost or damaged reading books and asked the group for their views on this. The PC agreed that this was acceptable.
Councillor Dryburgh talked about branded pencil cases being used at the breakfast club. Mrs Johnston explained that so far this has not been an issue within the school. We do not have a policy on lending resources, but help is always given where needed.
Mrs Johnston asked if anyone had any ideas on how we can better support families. Nobody had any ideas at the meeting and it was agreed to be added to March meeting

**Disney Showcase** – P2-P7 event which will be held during the day only on March 18th & 19th at 1pm-2.30pm.
**Bingo Night** – Nursery are running this fund raiser and may cross over to school.
**Dance Event** – This will be held at Calderglen during the last week in March.
**P7 end of school trip** – The pupils have not been asked what they would like to do yet. Anne Marie said that Frankie & Benny’s do a make your own pizza for free. Mr McPhilemy informed the group that the children made enough money last year from their enterprise to fund their own trip but they were not operating with the Virgin Fund Raiser this year.
Megan said that some parents complained last year that the P6 children in the composite class went on the trip, but Mr McPhilmey said they had participated in the Virgin enterprise which paid for the trip. Debbie said that some parents had complained because that class had had two trips but the other P6 class had had no trip at that point. All classes in school had trips last year. It was agreed by all members that a maximum £300 would be donated from the Parent Council for this year’s P7 trip.
Refund for Lockerbie trip (bag pack funds) to be issued next week at the latest. Pauline to organise along with Debbie Hutton – Treasurer.

**Treasurers Report** – Currents Balance £3940.44

**AOCB**
Anne Marie has booked Arianna Grande tribute night for Friday 13th Sept 2019. Mrs Johnston to advertise in March newsletter and again in August.
Debbie asked if a representative from Anytime Fitness could come in and do some work with the children. Debbie to give office details and Mrs Johnston will contact.
Debbie asked about leavers Hoodies. £20 per hoodie. Mrs Johnston discussed equality and equity within the school and that the price may be prohibitive for some families. Debbie asked if we could put it to the parents. Anne Marie will draught a letter to go out asking for the parents’ views on this.
Mrs Johnston told the group about the ‘Space Camp’ day that the church was
holding in the school during the Easter Holidays with a view to running one for a week in the summer time. Mrs Johnston thanked all the volunteers for their hard work. The church is running coffee mornings. Some weeks there will be free advice from professionals about finance, gas and electricity and Routes to Work. This will help establish good links in the community and put people in touch with the right organisations.

Mrs McPhilemy asked what the PC thought about the school running Fridays as Fitness days. He would invite both parents and pupils along to an early morning fitness session where they would play a Joe Wicks fitness video. There was a mixed reaction and school will put letters out to gauge interest. Mr McPhilemy will report back next session of which postcodes the children come from that attend after school clubs.

Next Meeting – Monday 25th March

Agenda –
- HT Report
- Cost of a School Day
- Improvement Plan
- Dates for 2019/2020