Greenhills Primary School Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting 20th May 2019

Present: Elaine Johnston, Councillor Dryburgh, Councillor Gray, Scott McPhilemy, Anne Marie Kean, Kelly Carlin, Carol Gallacher, Megan Carvel, Joanne Gilchrist.

Apologies: Debbie Hutton, Carrie Ann Burt & Fiona Fadhli.

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

Matters Arising

David Cunningham has left his post and Sian will be taking over until a new person is appointed.

Correspondence

Anne Marie has confirmation that the Parent Council do not require a Public Entertainment Licence for the Arianna Grande tribute night. Joanne has looked into funding from B&Q who have told her that they would need an official email address before the Parent Council could apply for funding. Mrs McNulty (Nursery Teacher) has ordered plants and bark for the playground which will be paid for by the Parent Council. Anne Marie was offered science kits to sell at the fair but this was not something that the Parent Council would consider at this time.

Head Teacher Report

Improvement Plan – Mrs Johnston will continue to consult with teachers, parents and children regarding the School Improvement Plan. A questionnaire was issued to the Parent Council to complete at the meeting with their views about what they would like included in the plan, why they think it should be part of the plan and what they would like the outcome to be for the good of all the children within the school.

The Cost of the School Day

School Clubs – School clubs are free of charge. Children who travel to school by bus may not be able to be picked up by their parent as this may incur a cost so can therefore be prohibitive for these children. There is no school budget for this. Councillor Dryburgh said that children transported to school often miss out on school clubs as they can’t afford not to use the transport. Mr McPhilemy reminded the Parent Council that where we can we operate lunchtime clubs targeting the P1-3 as generally, the P1-3 children will not be allowed to walk home on their own from an afterschool club but P4-7 are often allowed to do this. Mrs Johnston said that while this is a good idea it does mean teachers giving up their lunchtimes. Anne Marie said that she thought we provide our clubs in a fair way and that we couldn’t do any more than we were doing already. Councillor Dryburgh suggested that the local schools could share a 4pm bus but more co-ordination among schools would be necessary. Councillor Gray suggested a walking bus.

Home Learning – Mrs Johnston said that she was unsure of the percentage of children who had access to ICT at home but could do a survey to find out. We do not give ICT homework or craft homework as we realise that the children may not have the resources at home to complete it. Children can access the internet at the local library. Megan suggested that recycled items should be used for arts and crafts. The school lends literacy books, reading books and jotters etc but it is about equity and we would lend other items where necessary. Homework is not linked to discipline.
Poverty – SIMD and PEF information regarding children is shared with staff. The reason for this is about expectations of the children in terms of their circumstances and not about their learning. The nursery is sharing the 0-3 curriculum with parents so that parents have a guide as to what their child should be doing at every stage. Anne Marie felt that it was very informative. We aim to give this information out at enrolment time in the future. How can we encourage children and young people to discuss poverty. Joanne felt that sometimes discussing poverty can highlight it for some children. Councillor Dryburgh said that it had been discussed in a school she knows and the children there were very aware of who was in poverty. P1-2 were not so aware but the older children were aware. Councillor Gray talked about the ‘Working Poor’ – these are families who work for little money and sometimes have less spare cash than families on benefits. She also talked about how more comfortably off families did not feel embarrassed recycling their clothes or shopping in charity shops as this was a choice for them whereas families in poverty had no choice but to do this. She also said that people in poverty are reluctant to go to the authorities for help as they are frightened that their children may be taken from them. Councillor Dryburgh said that the Christians Against Poverty group and the Scottish Power representative who had come to the church meetings had been very good. The Health Walk had also taken place through the church. Councillor Gray said that he was going to run an information event during the holidays and invite Christians Against Poverty among others to speak at the meeting. Mrs Johnston asked if she could have the details to share with parents in the June newsletter.

Breakfast Club – It has been confirmed that the Breakfast Club will run fulltime from August 2019 and the current church volunteers are planning to run it. Club likely to commence on the Monday 19th August 2019.

Summer Clubs – Places at these clubs will be limited and will be offered to children who need it most first. The Council will run it for the first five weeks and the church volunteers will run the last week. ASN children will require additional support if they come to the club.

Parent Pay – This will be rolled out in the Duncanrig Cluster from Aug 2019. More details to follow.

Fair – Anne Marie expressed great concern and dismay regarding the lack of volunteers for the fair and said that if they didn’t get more she didn’t think the fair could go ahead. Mrs Johnston asked if the Parent Council would make a decision and let her know by Wednesday.

P7 Leavers - The P7 leavers party has been organised by the school and the Parent Council will give a donation. P7 children are holding a sponsored event to raise money.

The parents have organised their own event for the P7 children, in The Murray Bar and also organised Hoodies for them.

Cool Ride to School – Holly Gallacher won the ‘Cool Ride to School’ which will be coming in on the morning of Wednesday 22nd May 2019.

Treasurers Report – No report available at present.

Date of Next Meeting – Last Monday in August – 26/08/19.