



Oxgangs Primary School – Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 6th October 2015, 7.00 – 9.00 pm, Staff Room

Present: Crerar Christie – CC (Chair), Liz Walshe – LW (Head), Louise Mercer – LM (Teacher Rep.), Sue Bellis – SB (Vice Chair & Eco- Group), Ewan Stewart – ES (Treasurer), Nicole Johnstone – NJ (Communication), Patricia Rudolf von Rohr – PRvR (Secretary), Elaine Aitken – EA (Local Councillor), Juliana Valuchova, Ali Haines – AH (Co-Chair PTA), Rachel Pickett (RP), Julie Drake (JD), Sam Haston

Apologies: Tracy Brown

1. Welcome

CC opened with a welcome to everyone.

2. Approval of previous minutes (16th June 2015)

SB and ES approved minutes from the previous meeting.

3. Matters arising

3 i. Road Safety

CC mentioned about the current action taken by Edinburgh Council of closing roads around certain Primary Schools, specifically Buckstone, Bonaly and Colinton. This is being done in the name of child safety and reduction of pollution. The Parent Council will need to have an appropriate opinion and response ready if/when the Council should suggest such closures around Oxgangs, which would probably mainly impact Oxgangs Road North. There was general agreement that such a closure would not be a good idea. SB will try to find out how these measures are being received by people impacted around Colinton and Bonaly Primary.

3 ii. Firrhill Partnership Centre

EA advised that there was currently no further update available.

3 iii. PC Communication and Outreach

It was agreed that the wall at the school entrance needs to be updated, including new headshots of all Parent Council members. Everyone should provide CC with an up-to-date photo.

The website also still requires updating. RP mentioned that she couldn't find a Parent Council contact point on the website. It was also mentioned in the last Survey that parents weren't aware what the Parent Council does. CC is still working on the new website and will

provide an update at the next meeting. SB and NJ to support CC with the content of the website.

3 iv. Breakfast Club

EA confirmed that she had sent a report around the funding and link to child-care element to LW. She will forward this to the Parent Council.

The issue is that the Council funding for Oxbang's breakfast club will reduce because the overall Council funding will be spread across more schools. Currently the school receives £5,000 for the three staff. In addition the £20/child registration fee covers the food. However the club is currently running at a loss, resulting in money coming out of other budgets. The £5,000 might reduce to about £2,500.

There was a discussion around possible options. LW confirmed that the school office could not deal with daily charging. Also the charge to parents cannot be increased too much as it might then be deemed childcare, resulting in much more stringent requirements around staffing numbers.

It was agreed that ES, NJ and GR would have a separate meeting before the next PC meeting to consider possible options.

GR advised that there didn't appear to be a sign-in sheet available since the summer break. LW will look into this.

3 v. School Lunches

GR advised that there had been instances again where there was no pudding left at the third lunch sitting for the children. In addition vegetables were not being offered and the children cannot not always see that there are vegetables available. This was also mentioned in the recent Survey. AH advised that there had been dirty cutlery. LW confirmed that she will pick these points up with the catering staff.

3 vi. PC Account Signatories

The elections from the AGM were confirmed as required by the bank for change of signatories on the Parent Council bank account. The new treasurer ES will provide appropriate forms for all concerned individuals to complete and sign.

3 vii. AOCB issues: Dog Fouling, Parent Mail

Dog Fouling still appears to be an issue. As this is a wider Council issue, JD suggested to raise this at the next SW Neighbourhood meeting.

Parent Mail appears to be working fine with about 85% having signed up for it. LW confirmed that children from one family are linked, so parents shouldn't get duplicate emails.

4. Update reports:

4 i. Head teacher report (LW)

LW gave an update on what has been happening in the school.

Mrs Quantick will return from Maternity Leave after October. Miss Fleming will start her Maternity Leave this week and Miss Nash in December.

The school has, as usual, been very busy with P5 swimming, P6 skiing, P7 camping and training for peer mentoring. There has been a focus on Kenya, although no reciprocal visit from the partner school in Kenya is currently planned due to Kenyan teachers currently being on strike.

There has been a successful Harvest collection for the foodbank. P7 want to set up a regular collection.

The school is currently learning about Sustainability, fitting in with the ongoing ECO work.

A fire engine visited the nursery and it will return for P6 with firework night safety advice.

All lunchtime and afterschool clubs are running well.

The new reporting system has started and seems to be going well. There have been good comments back so far from parents and teachers.

All P4 and P5 will get 6 weeks of Ukulele lessons. There will also be the School Open Day on 4.11.2015 for parents of children starting school next year. In addition the P5 cycling training will start soon.

The October break is coming up next, with the children returning on Wednesday after.

4 ii. PTA (AH)

AH provided an update on the PTA.

AH and Amanda Roberts have taken over the chair. The vice-chair is being shared by Nina Smith and Kathrine Byrne. There has been a welcome increase of parents as well as teacher-reps coming to the meetings.

The Christmas cards have been done and are expected back at the October break.

It was decided to run the Tuck Shop on a Thursday and Friday for two weeks at the end of October.

The Christmas Shopping Evenet will be on Wednesday 18.11.2015. There won't be any mulled wine this year, but prosecco instead.

The Christmas Parties for the children will be split by age this year, P1-3 and P4-7.

4 iii. Communications (NJ)

NJ confirmed that the Newsletter usually got issued near the end-of-term, but wanted to discuss the timing of this as it coincides with the busy Christmas/New Year period. It was discussed and agreed that it would be beneficial to bring it a bit forward but still try to cover some Christmas activities in it.

4 iv. Playground Development Group and ECO Group (SB)

In relation to the Playground Development Group (PDG), SB confirmed that one meeting had been held so far. They had made £86 from spring bulbs sale and £237 from the Active Fund Raffle. There was a good turnout at last Saturday's work squad with a lot of work being done, including shed-paining, weeding and hedge cutting.

The ECO group also had one meeting so far. There were some new parent volunteers. No minutes were available.

4 v. South West Neighbourhood Group (SB)

SB confirmed that she couldn't attend the last meeting. The next one is scheduled for 9.11.2015.

5. Parent training courses (CC)

5 i. Recruitment and Selection

There are currently sufficient people who have attended this course, i.e. GR, SB and CC.

5 ii. Raising Children with Confidence / Cyber Security

Raising Children with Confidence: JD confirmed this was a very good course. It lasts 6-8 weeks. There is currently no plan to run this at the school. LW advised that there will be more coming up, for example at the community centre, and encouraged everyone to attend. She will inform of any future dates.

Cyber Security: P5 pupils and parents recently had this training, run by BT. LW confirmed it was a good turnout. However GR and NJ both agreed that they weren't impressed with the

course and that it was unclear who it was pitched at. It had previously been run by PC Gillander which was much better. EA will check if any other PC would be able to run this course again.

5 iii. Additional Information

CC mentioned that the Scottish Parents Teacher Council provide a course "Parent Council Essential". He will email the link.

6. School Survey 14/15

CC confirmed that this still has not been fully finalised. There were more responses than the previous year and the overall feedback was still very good. CC will send the results to LW first and then they will be sent round to be discussed at the next PC meeting.

7. AOCB

7 i. Computing in High School

NJ wanted to make everyone aware of the potential issues that children going to High School face if they cannot use a computer with a mouse. This will be discussed in more detail at the next PC meeting.

8. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 12th January at 19.00h