



Oxgangs Primary School – Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 7th June 2016, 7.00 – 9.00 pm, Staff Room

Present: Crerar Christie – CC (Chair), Liz Walshe – LW (Head), Sue Bellis – SB (Vice Chair & Eco- Group), Nicole Johnstone – NJ (Communication), Patricia Rudolf von Rohr – PRvR (Secretary), Elaine Aitken – EA (Local Councillor), Gill Christie – GC (PTA), Gordon Roberts (GR), Rachel Pickett (RP), Julie Drake (JD), Sam Haston (SH), Tracy Brown (TB), Kat Girdler (KG), Juliana Valuchova (JV)

Apologies: Ewan Stewart, Louise Mercer

1. Welcome

CC opened with a welcome to everyone.

2. Approval of previous minutes (12th January 2016)

GR and TB approved minutes from the previous meeting.

3. Matters arising

3 i. Road Safety

CC advised that there is ongoing concern around consistent offenders parking or stopping on the zig-zag lines. It was noted that there was increased Police presence, which was agreed was the most effective way to deter offenders. The traffic wardens appear to come too early.

It was suggested to set up a sub-group to look at road safety and possible signage. TB is happy to lead this sub-group. This could involve children as well (Junior Road Safety Officers). GR and JD offered to support TB.

3 ii. Firrhill Partnership Centre

CC confirmed that the Parent Council has not received any complaints or concerns from parents. The work area seems to be well fenced-in.

3 iii. PC Communication and Outreach

NJ provided an update on a suggested communication strategy, covering what parents need to know and what the community needs to know. This was discussed by all. Fiona Forrester had offered to set up a PC Facebook site, but she couldn't attend this meeting.

There was a discussion around a PC Facebook site. It resulted in the conclusion that this was not needed but it would be helpful if a PC member could become an admin on the existing PTA Facebook site. GC agreed to this.

CC confirmed that he will also add any important information to the PC website and will give NJ access to the website. Maybe there should also be sites added for the Eco-Group and Playground Development Group.

NJ will set up a twitter account for the PC. It is also important that the Notice Board is kept up-to-date.

4. Update reports

4 i. Head teacher report (LW)

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

It is good to be back in the school. She thanked all people who provided support over the 9 or so weeks, when the school was closed. It wasn't easy but the teachers and parents supported the children. CC thanked LW and all the staff again for all their work under exceptional circumstances. LW said that they had taken letters of thanks and chocolates to the other schools, which had accommodated them during the closure.

Being back, it was great to have the Mayfair, which was a great success.

Around staffing, Miss Clydesdale is leaving. Mrs King has been accepted on the Nursery training course. The current business manager is also leaving and LW will recruit for a 1-year temporary position.

Years 5 and 6 are performing at the Ross Band Stand in Princes Street Gardens on Thursday at 13h.

P7 are getting ready for their shows on 15th and 16th June. P4 are practicing their cycling. The Nursery Induction was today and the P1 Induction is due soon. The second round of the learning conversations have started and the folders will come home to the parents soon.

The class structures for the next year 2016/17 will stay the same as currently. There might be a re-structure of classes the following year. The nursery is, however, being restructured this year, involving a mixture of pre-schoolers and ante-pre-schoolers for the morning and afternoon sessions. This is because research shows mixture of different age groups is beneficial. This ties in with the aim 'Building the Ambition'. It will not be possible to have the 5 sessions over 2 ½ days.

4 ii. PTA (GC)

The Mayfair went really well and made about £4,500 which is a great result. The prices in general had been put up this year, but no negative feedback has been received as a result. The PTA has been considering possible improvements such as sticking to later in May for better weather or having a tug-of-war.

There were also three Easter Competitions, slightly different to other years due to the spread of locations.

CC thanked the PTA for pulling the Mayfair together in such a short time-frame and making it such a big success.

4 iii. Communications (NJ)

NJ confirmed that it would be good to get out another newsletter before the school year end.

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

In relation to the Playground Development Group (PDG), SB advised that the Summer Work Squad is scheduled for 18th June. The PDG has also a meeting planned for this week.

The ECO group is still focussing on litter. The bin next to the adventure playground is broken. LW will raise it with Amey.

4 v. South West Neighbourhood Group (SB)

The name has now been changed from 'South West Neighbourhood Group' to Southwest Locality Group'.

The following update was provided by SB and CC:

- The 'Named Person Scheme' (GIRFEC – Getting it right for every child) caused much concern by different parents. It was acknowledged that it was currently a hot political topic.
- The Primary School Parent Chairs are considering ways of communication, best mechanism, means to contact etc.
- The current Police Liaison officer, who is in charge of community policing, is available to attend schools, for example to talk about Cyber Bullying, Hate Crime, Race Crime etc. CC will try to get in touch to organise something for Oxgangs.

4 vi. Breakfast Club Funding Group (CC)

CC explained that they only had two responses to sponsorship requests from eight. Unfortunately these didn't meet the criteria. The PC will help out in the first year if the Breakfast Club should be short of funds due to the reduction in the Council funds.

5. Parent training courses (CC)

No current update provided.

6. Wall Collapse: Parent Council Debrief

NJ queried whether the holes in the walls would be filled. LW confirmed that they will, in addition the wind-posts will be painted and the harling and front-entrance as well.

It was agreed that the division amongst the parents seems to have improved very much following the meeting with Edinburgh Council. The recording of this will be added to the PC website as is. There will also be a synopsis of the main points including a list of attendees.

CC is still challenging why children were sent back to school following the original collapse. He is in contact with the engineers.

7. School Survey 15/16

CC confirmed that due to the timescales this will be completed online this year. He will test the webpage and will then first issue it to all PC members to try, before sending it to all parents.

8. AOCB

7 i. P7 Leaving Do

There were discussions around this year's P7 Leaving Do, which will be bigger than usual as the organising parents have received some more money. It is to be held at Meggetland under the theme of 'Casino Royale'. It costs £15 per ticket. Due to the additional cost of dressing-up, this could be divisive for the children. It was suggested that this should be held at the school going forward and consider no ticket charges, to be fully inclusive. However it was concluded, that as it is up to the organising parents, it is difficult to influence this.

7 ii. Film about School

GC raised the film recently produced by Prestonpans Primary School, used to advertise for a new head teacher. It was suggested to do something similar at Oxgangs to introduce the school to new P1s. LW agreed this was a good idea. It will be added to the next agenda.

7 iii. Oxgangs Gala

This is being held this Saturday, all are invited. The parade is due to leave Oxgangs Library at 11h. LW will include it in the Parent Mail.

7 iv. Rachel Pickett

CC thanked RP for all her work over the years in the PTA and PC. This will be her last PC meeting.

9. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 20th September 2016 at 19.00h – Parent Council AGM