



## **Oxgangs Primary School – Parent Council Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017, 7.00 – 9.00 pm, Staff Room**

**Present:** Crerar Christie – Chair (CC), Liz Walshe – Head (LW), Andrew Blaikie – Depute Head (AB), Louise Mercer – Teacher Rep (LM), Ewan Stewart – Treasurer (ES), Patricia Rudolf von Rohr – Secretary (PRvR), Ali Haines – PTA (AH), Nicole Johnstone – Communication (NJ), Richard Imlach – Engagement (RI), Laura Calder (LC), Julie Drake (JD), Kat Girdler (KG), Barbara Schuler (BS), Gill Christie (GC)

**Apologies:** Gordon Roberts, Jason Rust (Councillor), Sue Bellis, Tracy Brown, Sam Haston

### **1. Welcome**

CC opened with a welcome to everyone. Everyone introduced themselves.

### **2. Approval of previous minutes (28<sup>th</sup> March 2017)**

JD and KG approved the minutes.

### **3. Matters arising**

#### **3 i. Cole Report**

CC provided an update. As new Councillors have just been elected, we need to wait for their next meeting. Jason Rust, who had been very supportive throughout the whole story, could unfortunately not join us today. However he is planning to attend future PC meetings.

There will be a meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June for all PC Chairs of affected schools, which CC will attend.

CC has received feedback from different engineers who confirmed that best practice had not been followed during the risk assessment, which led to the school being re-opened too early. CC will push this point once more, also to the press, although it was agreed that we didn't expect much more action to be taken realistically.

#### **3 ii. School Inspection Report**

CC confirmed that two more schools have since been inspected under the new inspection regime. One school received all 'satisfactory' ratings, while the other got 'satisfactory' and below ratings. There were no 'good' ratings. This is in line with the discussions at the last PC meeting.

#### **3 iii. Pupil Equity Fund**

See point 4 i. below.

### **3 iv. Rebranding of 'Parent Community' and 'Fundraising'**

CC has created a proposed new Constitution based on the changed names. The intention is to raise this at the next AGM where such changes have to be agreed.

### **3 v. Tesco Blue Token**

LC confirmed that the application has gone to Tesco. It is now on their list for consideration. It can take up to 6 months for this to go through.

### **3 vi. P7 Leaving party organisation**

AH is helping to organise this. It will cost £10 per pupil.

### **3 vii. Sky opportunity and 'Welcome to Oxfords' film**

Currently all slots at Sky are filled up. RI will get the news dates for next term to LW.

### **3 viii. Tech Club / Lego Club / Other activities**

Various different options were discussed, including S5 from Firrhill helping after their exams (Code Club). CC will investigate options further (Action Ref. 2017/01).

### **3 ix. Allermuir (Firrhill) Partnership Centre**

This is due to open in autumn 2017. LW confirmed there has been good ongoing engagement with the school.

## **4. Update reports**

### **4 i. Head teacher report (LW)**

LW provided an update. The nursery have been welcoming parents of new children. P7 have been busy with their transition days and the Peter Pan Show. For P1 the induction meeting is on 25<sup>th</sup> June. The classes have been restructured for the next school year, as advised in the recent newsletter. There will be two classes each for all years except for P1 and P6 (three classes each).

Regarding the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF), Mrs Fenton will take on the role of the main PEF teacher. The vision is to look at all the children that are struggling with attainment. They will investigate how other schools approach this. They will also look at playtime, where some children are struggling emotionally. Mental Health will also be considered.

The Friday morning structure will change after the summer holidays, in order to allow more teaching time in the morning when the children are most receptive. The assemblies will therefore be moved, possibly to Monday afternoons. It was suggested by different parents at this meeting that Christmas assemblies would be kept in Fridays.

The sports day will include competitive sport this year for P4 – P7.

The new Breakfast Club run by the 'Afterschool Club' has started. It is still unclear how this will impact registration numbers next year for the general Breakfast Club. The new club has 14 places. ES will pick up with the business manager to find out if we broke even this year (Action Ref. 2017/02).

In response to the HMI Report, the school has started on various actions. A Resilience Programme will be introduced. They are considering moving away from project-concentration on science. They started to introduce the online programme 'Sum-Dog' with the intention to roll it out across the whole school next year.

AB has been working on a Positive Behaviour Policy, with a bi-annual review cycle. This is being discussed with the staff and the children, and a parent evening will be held to introduce it next year. They have already introduced a consistent approach on the Red-Amber-Green charters, with a fresh start for everyone each day. Gotcha Cards have also been introduced, in order to recognise positive, respectful behaviour. The plan is to review and update the approach on a regular basis. A clear flow-chart is being worked on to share

with pupils and parents which explains what happens at which stage (e.g. lose 5 minutes etc.).

#### **4 ii. PTA (AH)**

The Mayfair has been a big success, supported by the great weather, as many activities could be held outside. It was reduced to 2 hours this year, which made it all more compact. Overall they raised £5,000, including £1,000 from the silent auction.

CC thanked AH, GC and the team for their enormous work.

#### **4 iii. Parental Engagement (RI)**

RI and GR had volunteered at the last meeting to take this forward, however they haven't managed to meet up since. If anyone else wanted to get involved, please contact RI. RI also confirmed that Firrhill are also still looking into this. The whole approach needs to be aligned with LW and what the whole school needs and does.

Questions will be sent out to all children/parents around what they would like more of/less of/new in relation to engagement.

#### **4 iv. Communication (NJ)**

NJ asked for any article suggestions to be passed to here – suggestions mentioned were around the skills data base, corporate engagement and what the PTA involvement means. Once the name changes of PC/PTA etc have been agreed, these should then be reflected on the Facebook site. There was also the suggestion to ask in the next Parent Survey whether the 'Newsletter' was still getting read.

#### **4 v. Playground Development and Eco Group (CC)**

CC had received minutes and information from SB.

Regarding the Eco Group, as Amey are not fixing the flagpole, the Army has been contacted to see if they might be able to help.

Regarding the P1/P2 Playground, the group currently have about £2,300 available (before the Mayfair). Caledonian Play have conducted a site visit in February. They have provided a quote for various items (agility cube, swing etc.) for about £10,000. Ms Buckle is working with the business manager regarding the funding. The plan is to involve the children to decide what they would like. If anyone has any suggestions, they should be emailed to Sue Bellis or directly to Ms Buckle.

The little wooden house will be removed as it has been abused too much.

It was again raised that the gate between the environmental garden and the adventure playground has been locked. LW will raise again with the janitor.

#### **4 vi. Breakfast Club Funding Group (ES)**

ES will pick this up with LW and the business manager to establish if there has been a loss or not. They will then look at the next year 2017/18. There is currently about £2,700 in the PC account, including the £700 due from Edinburgh Council. CC raised that the PTA also had additional funds available.

#### **4 vii. (Road) Safety Group**

CC confirmed that lines are due to be painted in July which should help with inappropriate parking.

### **5. 2017 Survey**

CC explained that they have had the biggest response ever. He will put any issues on the agenda of the AGM to discuss. The top areas raised were around behaviour, children not stretched enough, attainment emphasis, overcrowding and that the lunch breaks were too short.

## **6. School Streets**

Edinburgh Council are looking for volunteers for the School Street Initiative, where a specific area around the school is closed off for traffic at drop off/pick up times. It was agreed that the PC would not support this for Oxgangs.

## **7. AOCB**

CC, Sue Bellis and NJ will be standing down at the next AGM. Sue will however stay on the Eco and Playground Groups.

## **8. Date of next meeting (AGM)**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 19.00h