



## Oxgangs Primary Parent Community Council Minutes from PCC meeting held on Tue 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019

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

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 6.30 – 8.00 pm, Staff Room**

**Present:** Richard Imlach – Chair (RI), Ewan Stewart – Treasurer (ES), Liz Walshe – Head Teacher (LW), Louise Mercer – Teacher Rep (LM), Scott Arthur – Councillor (SA), Lauren McKay – Chair Fundraising & Events (LMcK), Aristides Kiprakis (AK), Lesley Roarty (LR), Laura Calder, Michael McLeod, Hin [ ], Gill Christie (GC), Calley Thomson, Jo Stewart, Craig [ ], Rado Rzeznicki (RR)

**Apologies:** [Tracy Brown –Vice Chair (TJB), Jo Stewart, Phil Doggart (Councillor), Jason Rust (Councillor), Gavin Corbett (Councillor), Kat Girdler. ]

#### 1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

#### 2. Approval of previous minutes (22 Jan 2019)

LMcK approved the minutes- this was duly seconded.

#### 3. Updates

##### (i) PTA Report - Lauren McKay

A funding request for £2,480 for Generation Science (an ongoing programme/activity throughout the whole school) was approved.

The PTA recorded its thanks to Kat Girdler and Calley Thomson for their input into the PTA.

Tuck shop is coming up- paper bags have been sourced following the last PC meeting however there was a price increase on these. Tesco is going to provide free donuts.

Enquiries continue into booking the panto for this year.

Various preparations are ongoing for the May Fair (25<sup>th</sup> May)- help and volunteers needed. More generally the PTA needs new faces. It was generally agreed to be preferable for the PTA and PC not to amalgamate however volunteers are required to keep the PTA going, particularly once LMcK steps down. It was suggested (a) that publishing a list of tasks/jobs required for the May Fair and (b) encouraging people to represent each year group individually might make the task seem less daunting and encourage more people to volunteer.

##### (ii) Road Safety Update – Scott Arthur

The results of the Traffic Survey are discussed later however SA is still trying to arrange a meeting with a Council traffic officer (for whom Tuesday evenings are difficult). RR is happy to be involved here also.

Otherwise SA noting that there have been concerns over Kier/SGN roadworks outside the school- these has not been postponed to coincide in the main with the easter holidays.

### **(iii) Chair Report – Richard Imlach**

#### PCC Secretary

Lesley Roarty has volunteered to take on this role in the interim.

#### PTA

Still very low on members.

#### Redford Barracks Redevelopment

The sale of the site has been moved from 2022 to 2025. The Oxfangs PCC should continue to be interested in any developments or changes, but nothing expected in the immediate future.

#### Parent Survey 2019

The parent survey questionnaire is to be published to parents in March 2019. No changes will be made to format or content. Plan to use gift incentive (suggested family ticket for something to the approx. value of £40) to encourage participation. Method TBD.

#### South West Locality Meeting

Neither RI or Tracy could attend the meeting on Tue 5<sup>th</sup> February due to Parents night (Firrhill) and other commitments. Minutes from the meeting were forwarded to all separately. Going forward if anyone else is interested to let RI know.

#### Holiday dates 2020/2021 Session

Quite a lot of noise from Parent Councils across Edinburgh around the dates of the holidays in 2020/2021 session. Christmas holidays begin midday on 23 Dec 2020. Feeling is that it should be moved a day earlier to 22 Dec. A survey on PC facebook page to get the Oxfangs parental view and results were as follows. 77% of people agreed it should be moved back to 22 Dec.

- 52 people agreed the date should be moved to 22 Dec
- 11 people said they were happy with the last day being 23 Dec.
- 4 people said they didn't mind.

A councillor is raising a motion re this imminently

#### Recent parental initiatives

Big thanks to parent AK for his recent classroom session with the P7's for the International Space Station (ISS) workshop, which comprised a presentation with questions and also a hands on exercise. This was well received by the children and AK was impressed with the children and their level of engagement- AK is happy to run this again next year. The Sky Studios experience was once again very popular with the children of P5. Thanks also to Patricia Rudolf Von Rohr for bringing a TSB workshop to the classroom. If any parents have any similar initiatives or experiences they can share from their workplaces please speak to LW- the school is interested in developing links such as those above.

#### Library fundraising

A parent has managed to secure £1000 from their work scheme for this (they wish to remain anonymous). Encourage all to look to their workplace to see if any similar schemes.

The vision for the library has not yet been finalised but it being acknowledged that this was likely to be substantial costs in developing the library as the school wants to promote reading. If anyone has experience in raising funding or is willing to help out in this area please advise.

#### Closing

In closing the Chair's report, RI again thanking all our school, parent and ex-officio members, for all their time, commitment and support to Oxfords Parent Community Council.

#### **(iv) Headteacher Report - Liz Walshe**

The following activities and events were noted, either as having taken place or being in the planning stages:-

- The P6/P7 (and some P5s) cross country team has been out competing, the best placing being a third. Further competitions are all Edinburgh and then the national event in Kirkcaldy.
- The school came 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 5 in the Rotary Club Quiz, an improvement on previous years.
- Book Week is this week and World Book Day is on Thursday- vouchers to come home that day.
- Firrhill Sports Leaders (pupils from Firhill High School) coming on to assist class teachers in the teaching of certain activities (such as cycling proficiency, athletics and basketball).
- RRS group busy planning red nose day.
- Partnership group looking at getting more donations to the food bank (currently there is a link up with Aldi).
- Health and well being group looking at promoting healthy snacks.
- The school had a visit from the SSPCA last week.
- There is a new Barnardos rep working with groups of children in the playground in the mornings and working with nurture groups and undertaking home visits in the afternoon.
- There will be a 2 hour workshop with a focus on resilience and anti-bullying on 2<sup>nd</sup> May- "Respect Me", run by the Scottish Government. Attendance at that is encouraged.

#### **(v) Playground Fundraising Proposal (on behalf of Kate Lambie – P1 parent)**

This follows on from discussions with Miss Buckle and Miss Fenton. Kate will progress outwith the PC but RI will stay closely in touch on this.

RI asking which is the priority, playground or library (or both). GC expressing concern that progressing with the playground proposal may mean that the library proposals do not happen- are we sure there is a need for further investment in the playground (and is the library perhaps more important, given that children possibly need less incentive to play)? It being discussed generally and noted that a consultation to establish what is needed in each case should happen prior to a decision being taken on which to promote and any phasing of either development.

It being noted that there are still approx. £7K of funds left to spend on the playground, the suggestion being that this be spent on play equipment rather than larger stuff- loose parts, games etc.

It being decided that a consultation on both proposals must happen before fund raising is taken forward- the school needs to establish the likely cost of each (and also whether separate grants may be available in respect of each proposal). Ideally the school would like to go for both proposals.

The PCC thanked Kate Lambie for her time to date on this which was much appreciated, although concerns as regards the timeline were noted by some who felt that this was overly ambitious. The PCC will look to take fundraising aspects forward once some further initial consultation has been undertaken.

***Action – RI to look into instructing playground design consultants (and library equivalent) to come up with some proposals to be taken to the parent body for consultation.***

**(vi) Traffic Survey Dec 2018 – Rado Rzeznicki**

As regards the creation of a crossing the Council has carried out a traffic survey to assess how many cars there are and how many people are crossing over the road. The result from that was way below (around 1/10<sup>th</sup> of) the threshold value the Council would require before installation of a crossing would be considered. RR has some questions about how this value was reached and is going back to the Council on this.

The possibility of extending double yellow lines was raised, as was the possibility of kids acting as pretend parking attendants to raise awareness (LW stating she would have serious health and safety concerns with the latter). Car idling was also noted to be an issue.

**4. AOB**

Safety in the car park is noted as being an ongoing concern and various concerns were raised by LW following a recent incident with a pupil in the car park. This is still being reviewed.

LR noting that West Kip seems to only have had 'won' one house party in four years and suggesting that the house points system might be more motivating for those in that house were they to achieve some success in this regard.

Hin noting his concerns regarding the breakfast club door and draft situation, which he felt was unsafe for all concerned. LW noting that the provision was perhaps not ideal but that this was dictated by other requirements and appeared to be the best solution for now.

**5. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tue 30 April 2019 from 6.30pm to 8pm in the school staff room. RI closed the meeting at 8.20pm.