



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

**16<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – Hosted on Teams**

**Present:** Aristides Kiprakis – Chair (AK), Kathryn Wright – Head Teacher (KW), Louise Mercer (LM) – Teacher Rep, Kaythie Reid (KR), Ewan Stewart (ES) Crerar Christie (CC), Ben Bunting (BB), Gordon Robertson (GR), Kerry Knox (KK), Barbara Findlay (BF), Patricia Rudolf Von Rohr (PVR) Amelia Hill, Bertrand Frossard, Eilse Quesnell, Herve Lacroix, Hannah Montgomery, Hin Lee, *Others TBC*

### **1. Welcome, introductions and apologies**

### **2. Approval of previous minutes**

Previous minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 were approved.

### **3. Updates**

#### **(i) Headteacher Report:**

- KW referred to parent consultations which were held by phone last week. Feedback from other schools on Teams was that it was temperamental on both sides. Staff felt it went quite well.

GR said did work well, quite focussed in 5-10 mins available but is a disadvantage if some parents didn't know what a teacher looked like to help put a name to a face for some parents who may be newer to the school. Hannah Montgomery echoed this that feedback that was good but echoed some sort of visual introduction would be much appreciated

AK – found conversations were useful. But felt that teachers were tired by the end doing one after the other without break and would it be worth spreading over more nights? Another comment from a parent was that they were happy with the meetings despite being apprehensive beforehand. KW said teachers were given option to spread over 5 days and teachers were able to schedule to their own timetable as they saw fit.

- Teaching staff have been thinking of Powerpoint or video to do the equivalent of Meet the Teacher virtually. Some staff felt the opportunity to view work was missing which was a pity. Crerar agreed and asked about absent teacher. He also asked whether there would

be a report that would be issued pre meeting to give focus to the discussion. KW said she and the staff are mapping out the reporting process and timeline for the year to clarify what types of report would go out and when. Her aim is to issue some communication about this shortly after Christmas

- Hin asked about Learning Conversations – will there be something else if these aren't being done? KW said would have ordinarily happened by now but they might look a little different. Hin also asked on timing for these if they are retrospective and children can't remember 6 months ago!
- Staff also been thinking of other options about how to share learning.
- Kerry K – raised a question from parents about homework and using Teams. Some teachers don't appear to be confident in using Teams aren't really using Teams or reading on Teams since the other year group teacher was the leader on that. KW said she is aware that people are using tech more than in the past so the school has set up an ICT development group who meet weekly at school to talk about how to use Teams/Ipads/how to structure ICT learning in school and at home. And how experienced teachers can help less experienced so that there is consistent use of technology.
- AK asked re Disney Plus licences and whether they had actually bought the subscriptions yet. LM said no don't think so. LM/KW will find out and Parent Council has agreed to fund but need to know exact cost to make the payment.

## **(ii) Playground Development**

- Activity cube – agreed we should just go ahead. Pass plans to KW and review and then request any shortfall from PC.
- AK explained what an Amey school is i.e. built by PPP partnership and Amey manage the building on their behalf. This brings a particular process that needs to be worked through for anything to be done to the fabric of the building or playground.

## **4. Parent Council Committee**

AK outlined a number of posts that need to be filled!

- Treasurer – Patricia kindly volunteered – we're very grateful!
- PTA chair – Ben is Treasurer but Lauren wants to step down. Barbara McS said she would help but didn't want to be the sole responsible person. KR suggested doing by Committee, don't name the chair. GR said we had mentioned assigning events to particular year groups. A question was asked of KW about how the PTA operated at her previous school. KW said this theme was a familiar story as named Chair ends up with a lot of work. Would be a good time to try something new given quiet time for fundraising before end of this academic year. To allow succession plan for 2021/22 session. CC suggested at PC meeting in January we discuss PTA specifically and get list from Lauren of calendar of events.

**ACTION:** Babs to talk to Lauren.

- ES said need some comms about agenda etc in advance of January meeting to get some more people to attend for the PTA focus.

**ACTION:** AK to notify parents in advance so they come along to meeting.

Planning for activities – carried over to January mtg.

## 5. AOB

1. Communications in P1 – there was some feedback that P1 parents feel that they are not getting enough support to be integrated into the school quickly when they have no experience with school processes/systems etc. P1 might need more attention. Could there be P1 parent reps that could talk to the PC?. KW said her previous school had a rep from each class that would disseminate information/be point of contact but ends up being same parents over and over. One to ask by ParentPay
2. CC talked about parent involvement vs parent engagement e.g. parents talking about their jobs. Agreed this was a good idea!
3. Lesley asked re P6 skiing? KW said interesting to know Hillend is open again for lessons. LM said built into P6 experience. Will investigate with Hillend to check whether this can be booked in.
4. Herve – asked if any plans for any after school extra curricular activity. KW said Council give weekly H&S briefing and they are currently writing guidance on this so hopefully hear something soon.
5. KK asked about school approach to reward time in partic for older children and whether this will be maintained. Are there thoughts on ability to use screens also given this is unsupervised? KW said her previous school stopped Golden Time but not something she has looked at yet for Oxfords. LM agreed that this happens across the school in different formats but there is now an opportunity to look at how the school operates this and go through a consultation process. CC mentioned last time looked at behaviours and this was tied to encouraging positive behaviours.
6. Website – needs to be updated? Ben asked how best to communicate given we still seem to miss some audiences.
7. KW asked about Xmas. Staff have been looking at what can be done within school and whether they could produce a school video with different classes doing different performances. Celebrations for kids in school would have to be in school. Now some providers/companies are moving online with a log in that all the school could use. One company for example would cost £125. . IT WAS AGREED that the Parent Council would fund this.

**ACTION:** KW to send details to AK.

## 6. Next Meeting:

Suggested 26/01/21 at 7pm