



Oxgangs Primary School – Parent Community AGM Minutes

Tuesday 18th May 2021, 7.00pm – Hosted on Teams

Present: Aristides Kiprakis (AK), – Chair, Kathryn Wright (KW) – Head Teacher (KW), Louise Mercer (LM) – Teacher Rep, Kaythie Reid (KR), Crerar Christie (CC), Ben Bunting (BB), Gordon Roberts (GR), Patricia Rudolf Von Rohr (PRvR), Councillor Jason Rust (JR), Councillor Scott Arthur (SA), Helen Panter (HP), Laura McGurk (LM), Calley Thomson (CT), Hin Lee (HL), Jennifer Taylor, (JT) Lea Savage (LS), Louise McLennan, (LMcL) Kerry Murray (KM), Joanne Stewart (JS)

Apologies: Lesley Roarty, Kerry Knox, Lauren McKay

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

2. Approval of previous minutes (23.03.21)

AK approved the minutes- duly seconded by CC.

3. Updates

(i) Head Teacher Report – Kathryn Wright

- KW extended her thanks to the Parent Council for their support with the P1 transition books. Each book contains a sticker saying it's from Parent Council. LM and all nursery staff also pass on their thanks. She also expressed her gratitude for the support to P7 leavers. In summary, what is happening for them includes the yearbook which will go to printer end of first week in June, a leavers video, and their Epic day out at the start of June.
- As part of Health & Wellbeing planning, the school has started on use of the Zones of Regulation framework. A parent leaflet will be going out this week to explain this further but essentially this is a way to use a common language in school to identify and talk about emotions, recognise emotions and how we all move in and out of different zones. Strategies are provided to help children to cope when they feel they are not regulating emotions well. This work will carry on this term and into next year.
- Renewal Planning – school improvement planning last session and this session was fractured for obvious reasons, so the whole City of Edinburgh Council are looking at how to get back to school and press the reset button. There are 3 themes/areas of focus:

- 1) Health & Wellbeing & Resilience: thinking about how to implement the city wide building resilience programme and looking at relationships/behaviour policies
 - 2) Teaching & Learning e.g., the curriculum and how do we up our game to use the new technology that we now have in school.
 - 3) Equalities, Equity & Inclusion: there is a huge focus nationally and in the Local Authority on equality and making sure all staff in school are aware of procedures and undertake the appropriate training into things like unconscious bias etc. The aim is to make sure we are an inclusive school in our lessons and have a classroom approach that appreciates and recognises everyone and makes them feel welcome. KW said she would love to involve parents and families more and asked how best to do this? CC suggested family tasks are quite a good approach because typically it is difficult to get a cohort of parents together into a meeting to have a rounded opinion. The topic could be introduced at assembly first then be sent home as a family task with a recording of assembly available for parents to watch.
- At the recent in-service day, the staff undertook unconscious bias training and autistic spectrum disorder training, KW also mentioned that although everyone is hoping that health & safety guidance will change and be updated by August, staff are currently still having to plan with class bubbles and non-class contact time etc still being required.
 - In line with the health & wellbeing agenda, pre-COVID, the Scottish Govt said all schools would have access to a school counsellor. Firrhill HS were able to appoint 2 part time counsellors who will link in with cluster primary schools. At the moment only P6 & 7 are eligible to use the service and children who would benefit are identified by staff. Counsellors would take children for a block and see how they get on with either just a few sessions or a longer block required depending on their need/requirement and progress.
 - Managing Anxiety sessions – email went out on this new initiative which is now being offered to our cluster by CAHMS and Psychological Services. KW encouraged anyone concerned or worried to sign up.
 - Building maintenance – AK had raised this with KW prior to meeting. KW has asked Business Manager (Aleksandra Williams) who would be happy to come along to next meeting or for questions to be collated and passed on in advance. Generally, there is a monthly meeting with Amey, KW, AW and a CEC rep/liaison. Recently, the focus has been on cleaning and how catering is delivered but this is the opportunity to raise concerns on building, health & safety etc. KW said it is the first time she has worked in a PPP school and is quite impressed with speed of response etc. Termly there is also a health and safety walk round of the school building with Matt and AW where they look at every classroom plus other areas of school looking at a whole checklist of items like décor, safety, maintenance etc. AK referred to an incident pre-COVID where a ceiling tile fell on a child and though this was dealt with with Amey at the time, it was agreed at the time that 6 month inspections would be an action to be taken. GR said a couple of years ago after the last series of incidents, there was a commitment by Amey to make available their inspection reports to provide assurance the building was safe and fit for purpose. Can this action be tracked down in previous minutes? KW

can then pass on and get AW to check with Amey. CC said the other area we continue to be revisiting are educational tools that use the building infrastructure .e.g protractors on wall, time tables on stairs and what more can be done with the building in that regard

ACTION: monthly meeting next Wednesday so provide KW with a request for Amey. GR/CC to check previous minutes etc to see if can extract what was previously agreed and pass to AK.

(ii) Chair Report – Aristides Kiprakis

- P1 transition books – AK organised purchase (£324 for 65 books) and the books have been passed on to school for distribution to the new P1's..
- Supporting P7 leavers activities – LMck has organised a piper. AK has discussed in-school activities with Mrs Wright. Obviously with COVID restrictions, these can't go ahead but one suggestion from Mrs Wright was to purchase a tie for the leavers for their new school. AK asked for any other suggestions from parents?. LMck said she is happy to organise with P7 parents but has no mechanism to contact parents. KW said GDPR prevents sending out class lists but could send out an email to share specific P7 email that LMck has created to allow her to start organising.
ACTION: LMck to provide wording to school office.

4. AOB

- AK raised an opportunity for some funding from The Royal Society for schools to do STEM projects up to £3k. Developing activities at the school with a STEM partner which would allow kids to have more experience/exposure to STEM subjects. Scheme open now but a second opportunity to apply in November. AK will send link to KW for circulation and is happy to support the school in applying for this. Want to see as many pupils getting involved as possible. Need a teacher/group of teachers who would be willing to be involved and an idea! KW said sounds like a great opportunity and will ask staff for any volunteers to get involved.
- PrvR – asked if school will go back to using indoor shoes again. KW says not at the moment as still not using cloakrooms.
- SA – just wanted to add that he feels the view of the school has improved over the last few years but way the school, kids, staff and parents came together to fix these problems, despite some negative media, was very positive.
- HL – this year P7 camp didn't happen this year, but is there a plan for this next year? KW said are hoping that residential camp will go ahead and provisional booking has already been placed to go to Lagganlia. Info will go out on this asap to allow planning for any deposits/payments required.
- AK – asked the Council to consider the use of communication channels e.g. Facebook page to advertise local businesses or those from Oxgangs parents. We have said no in the past but should we reconsider and whether it would be positive for the community to allow some? What do other schools do? If it were for the benefit of children/families? CC said in principal he feels why not but does this require adequate sifting/ongoing monitoring. Would need to set up some guidelines.
- Photos: Mounika Parri KW will get office to make an enquiry about rescheduling.

- KR asked about end of year reports: KW said these will be coming out around 18th June and class teachers are writing these now.
- PRvR mentioned auditing of PC accounts. She also has some questions on some transactions that have very little info and might have to look back at previous PC mins to identify the spend. KR suggested asking Ewan Stewart if he would be able to audit the accounts.
- There a discussion over the continued use of MS Teams for the PC meeting. SA asked whether anyone will have been excluded by use of Teams? It was felt that having supported lots of families to use this technology during remote learning, most families should be in a good position to use. Success of the technology also supported by the increased attendance at PC meetings since lockdown.

6. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be the AGM on **Tuesday 28th September, 7pm** and then first parent council is end Oct with date TBC thereafter.

AK closed the meeting at 8.35pm.