



Oxgangs Primary School – Parent Community AGM Minutes

Thursday 28th September 2021– Hosted on Teams

Present: Aristides Kiprakis – Chair (AK), Kaythie Reid – minutes (KR), Kathryn Wright – Head Teacher (KW), Louise Mercer (LM) – Teacher Rep, Gordon Robertson (GR), Benjamin Bunting (BB), Helen Panter (HP), Katie Weavers (KW), Marlene Marimbe (MM), Patricia Rudolf von Rohr (PRvR); Barbara Findlay (BF), Fiona Hil (FH), Joanne Stewart (JS).

Apologies: None

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

2. Approval of previous minutes (29.10.2020)

AK approved the minutes- duly seconded by BB.

3. Updates

(i) Head Teacher Report – Kathryn Wright

COVID/Return to School:

KW summarised the arrangements as currently are in play since the return to school. There are no class bubbles, no zones in playground but the staff team are still aware that COVID remains something to be aware of and there are still cases in school so this is being taken serious and everyone is continuing with ventilation, hand hygiene measures etc. One class had to go back into a class bubble for a short while. The school is continually in touch with CEC and NHS Lothian. Excursions are re-starting though trying to keep these outside – including P7's going to Laganlia at end Oct, which is good news for them.

Aims for 2021:

Each year has an improvement plan – now called a renewal plan. Strands to the renewal planning for all schools have 3 themes and we have made targets for the school to be worked on by staff/pupils/wider community:

- Equity - this is high on the agenda for Oxgangs Primary to ensure the curriculum represents the diversity in our community and diversity is recognised and promoted. KW is interested and keen to have parent representatives on an equalities group. Staff are working on anti-bullying procedures etc and that policy is updated in line with equity & protected characteristics etc.

- Health & Wellbeing – looking at relationships, behaviour and inclusion. Zones of Regulation has helped to deal with the emotional way children are dealing with things. and will continue to be a focus this year School values are part of assemblies but children have been contributing to that. Also looking at clear progression in H&W curriculum
- Learning, Teaching & Assessment – looking at experiences and outcomes and how they suit particular stages. Ensuring digital learning in school will be benefiting from Scottish Government support. I pads will be supplemented by CEC with the aim being all P6 & 7 pupils will have 1:1 devices. This is currently being rolled out now. As well as the physical devices, there is a need to ensure teaching & learning embraces the new devices. Also going to be looking at outdoor learning also and have 2 staff focussed on progressing this.

Homework

News on the approach to homework will be shared shortly. Also feedback from parent consultations about not being in school to see displays has been taken on board and the school is looking at how best to be able to engage parents with the physical school environment.

(ii) Chair Report – Aristides Kiprakis

Last year was a second challenging year for the school and it's wider community and so the Parent Council is glad to see conditions improving. The Parent Council continues to provide support to the school & community as much as possible. Unfortunately circumstances have meant that there wasn't the opportunity to resume the full suite of activities like the May Fair, October Halloween parties etc and although there was support of some P7 leaving activities, it was not as much as usual.

During the year, the Parent Council funded the purchase of books for P1 transition, at a cost of around £324, contributed around £560 to the activity cube for the infant playground and have been assisting with supporting the Headteacher in liaising with the school community. At the current time, Parent Council & PTA funds are in not too bad shape but this is mostly because not much has been spent due to COVID. As things return to normal, we will need to look at what to do for fundraising going forward e.g. resurrecting events or a donation fund potentially.

Also, AK reminded everyone that the PC used also to run a parent survey which has not run last few years given the very different situation the school has been in such that the format, questions and results would not be comparable to results from previous years. However, everyone agreed to try and aim to run this in Spring 2022.

This past year had also had a stated intention of trying to increase parental engagement, but this has been limited because of COVID restrictions attending school. However this should be carried forward and will be one of the most important objectives for 2021/2022 session.

(iii) Treasurers Report – Patricia

The report for last 2 years was shared covering 2019/2020 and 2020/21. Key points to note are:

- The accounts have been independently audited – with thanks to Ewan Stewart.
- Outgoings in the last year for the P1 books and activity cube contribution. £4,371 in PC account, £6,600 in PTA account and a small balance in PDG account.
- £700 from CEC will be received for this year but no planned expenditure yet for 2021/2022 session.

(iv) PTA Report - Ben Bunting

Lauren has now moved on with no children left at school she has our thanks for all her previous efforts with PTA fundraising. No major fund raising in 2021/2022.

BB confirmed he has finally got control of the PTA bank account. He will step through and audit but the process is a few years behind so will be going through this chronologically. Last year has been reviewed but is relatively simple due to a lack of activity.

AK also added his thanks to Lauren McKay and BB for his dedication in pursuing access to the bank account.

Main income this year was from the Rag Bag £831. Other income from Xmas card and mugs etc. Spent £500 in last year on a couple of events.

(v) Playground Development Group Report – Kaythie Reid

Access to the school is still limited through the Council let process but there is going to be an autumn worksquad afternoon of 8th October.

All the paperwork has been completed for the activity cube to be installed in the infant playground. We await confirmation from Amey of the proposed date.
Post meeting note: installation confirmed as taking place during the October break.

4. Issues raised by Parent Forum

AK said no issues had been raised prior to the meeting but offered attendees to opportunity to raise any issues for consideration. Helen Panter just offered her thanks for efforts in the last year.

AK asked how many of the parents joining the AGM are P1 parents. Marlene is a P1 parent and first time attending a Parent Council meeting.

5. Election of new Committee

Committee has been running for 2 years. Most current members will remain but also need more hands, eyes, ears & brains so would like to welcome any new members who would want to join.

HP would be willing to join the committee. Fiona Hill will also help if possible. AK confirmed that meetings can be difficult with timing but a lot of business can be conducted by email.

Office bearers:

Chair – AK would like to step down as Chair of the Parent Council this year although to remain as Committee member. Any volunteers for the role, please let the group know!

Treasurer – P RvR will continue for the next year. Seconded by KR

Secretary – KR/Lesley R will continue. Seconded by AK

AK gave overview of role of the Chair – main thing is to organise and chair the meetings (3/4 per year). Between meetings there are some actions to be followed up. PC Chairperson is also the liaison with school senior management and communication and school community.

ACTION: AK welcomed the new members of the committee. Will send out message via Parentmail with plea for a new chair and any other volunteers. Give 2 weeks for people to respond by October break and then formalise changeover for next meeting. CEC also provide workshops for Chairs of parent councils

HP – suggested including in the Parentmail a few broad points on covering role, main responsibilities, time required and support to help people understand the role.

AOB – none

6. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is Tuesday 9th November at 7.00pm.

AK closed the meeting at 8.15pm