

Minutes of the Robert Owen Memorial Primary School Parent Council meeting held on 17th January 2023 via Zoom at 19:30

Present

Laura Black (Co Chair), Bronwen Aidoo(Scribe), Ina Marshall, Jill Logan, Lynsey Roebuck, Catriona Murdoch, Gemma Good (Co Chair), Annie Smith, Mrs Allan, Erica Baillie, Vikki Epton, Erin Barrie, Claire Frod, Jenni Smith. Mrs Thomson, Miss Murphy

Apologies

Vicki Day, Gareth Brown, Joanna Harrington, Mrs McCallum, Fiona Barr, Miss McAllister

1 Welcome

Laura and Gemma welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Agreement of the November Minutes

Proposed Erin Barrie

Seconded. Claire Frod

Parent Council Business

3. Finance update

Gareth provided Figures to Laura

Bank balance £2174.96

Cheques outstanding £254.55 for panto expenses

Fiona Lawn has approved accounts for the past Financial year

Borders biscuits total profit £523 50

Panto £384.58 spent including ice cream and popcorn

Treat £112.58. which included a charitable donation on Mrs Hughes behalf.

Easy Fundraising has been received but was lower then amount mentioned as that amount was for the total raised not the current balance. £63.20 received.

Gift sale profit was £435.08 some stock left that could be used this year.

4. Fundraising review

Borders biscuits

Profits £523.50

The meeting felt this was a very successful event and ran smoothly. All biscuits were sold. Easy fundraising method and did not put any pressure on families as it was completely optional. The meeting agreed that is should be considered again this year if we have the opportunity.

Christmas Gift sale

Profit £435, with stock remaining. Day ran smoothly and feedback received that Children were happy with the gifts the parent council made. The hot chocolate cones and chocolate snowmen.

Feedback received at the meeting included

- that either children should be encouraged to write the names on their gift or
- that a table be set up for an adult to assist with this so that gifts are not unmarked or mixed up.
- Labels are prepared for the children in advance so they know who they are buying for and can bring it with them.
- Children may well purchase gifts for themselves but this is hard to manage

Discussion also included whether Parents could prepay for the gift sale to prevent loss of cash and increasing trend of parents not using cash or cash not being easily accessible at home the night before an event. The meeting agreed this is something to consider but would logistically be hard to track a child through the tables and how much is spent and how to return unspent money. Use of Parent pay would be difficult to manage as parent council do not have access to it. Use of a young Scot card was given as an alternative but the meeting was unsure how this would work.

Children enjoyed creating cards and decorating the blank Christmas Decorations.

Review of Panto and Christmas Treat

Two online pantomimes were purchased that could be viewed during the month. Teacher feedback that P7 were engaged and that the panto was of good quality. Some younger years all of class were not engaged and this frustrated some pupils. Comments were heard at pick up time that it was a pity children did not go to attend in person and the parents were invited to come to attend a meeting and give their views. Some parents advised that there might have been pressure to attend panto in person as the school did not go and this would indirectly put more financial pressure on parents than a subsidised school event.

The meeting considered that it might be useful to put out a poll/vote to children and parents before making a decision for December 2023.

Christmas Treat,

Story round campfire and smores. Feedback received included it was cold but all enjoyed it.

A parent also raised a concern that there is a lot on in December, Class parties, panto, Christmas treat, nativity, and that maybe these could be spread out better rather than concentrated in one month of the year. The meeting agreed this should be considered and that the children should be consulted for what they would prefer.

5. Spring event with Nursery

Nursery would usually do a Christmas extravaganza in November but have not managed since 2019. Laura and Gemma met with Mrs Logan to discuss possible ideas and Nursery are happy to fundraise with the parent council. The Nursery Fundraising is largely to supplement the existing budget for events. Mrs Thomson advised there is a budget available for Nursery to utilise and specifically for graduation from nursery.

Suggestions were sought for fundraising events and the following were suggested

A Spring Fair, Ladies night, Afternoon tea, sponsored event or Race night, games night, silent Disco,

The meeting felt something out with school hours would be better as it would make attendance voluntary and remove any pressure to attend. A Sponsored event was felt to likely put the most pressure on families to contribute.

Gemma and Laura will find out what a race night would involve. Other activities can be done on the night such as raffle, tattoo and face painting that may contribute to fundraising. Claire will contact Karen Brown and ask for details and forward to parent council email.

Erica Baillie contacted Loraine Dick who would be willing to supply a bar

Laura and Gemma will discuss with Nursery and come back to wider group via email. Members of the meeting asked if this could be done by Whatsapp or on Facebook. At present communication would be via Email as this complies with GDPR.

6. Grant funding

No update on this at present. Miss Ferguson will be liaising with the children and discuss with the Parent council when consultation has been done. Miss Fergusson is leading with STOMPs and outdoor learning so this might tie in with John Muir award which is focussed on outdoor learning.

School Business

7. How Good is Our School version 4

2.7 Theme Impact on Learners

Discussed this theme and Mrs Allan took notes from feedback given by the parent council.in answer to the Questions, How are we doing?, How do we know? and Where do we go from now?.

Active agenda

None

Next meeting

7th February Via Zoom

Meeting closed at 20:59