

## Robert Owen Memorial Primary School Parent Council

### Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 via Zoom at 19:30

**Present** Kathryn Gartshore, Chair, Mrs Thomson Head, Bronwen Aidoo Scribe, Jennifer Fisher, Catriona Murdoch, Claire Orr, Susan Girvan, Ina Marshall, Vicky Epton, Claire Froot, Erica Baillie, Jennie Smith, Gemma Good.

**Apologies** Fiona Barr, Gareth Brown, Annie Smith, Fiona Rogerson, Gillian Drummond, Laura Black, Joan MacMillan, Vicky Day, Kirsty Gray, Miss McAllister, Mrs McCallum, Mrs Allan.

#### Parent Council Business

##### **1. Welcome**

Kathryn wished everyone a good new year. Slides for the meeting with parent council chairs have been circulated via email.

##### **2. Agreement of the November Minutes**

Proposed Gemma Good

Seconded Catriona Murdoch.

##### **3. Finance Updates**

Bank balance £1513.29 once all cheques written are cashed.

Borders biscuits profit £ 338.50

Gift sale Profit £ 535.55

Expenses: £197.50 for Christmas treats

Our Finances are in a good position and means we can cover the commitment already agreed of the P1 bags and the P7 ties.

##### **4. Event review**

Kathryn advised she wants to thank everyone who helped in the last year. The support was appreciated.

##### **Borders biscuits**

This year we were able to buy stock at the beginning and then could provide orders as they came in and this has been the most successful year for biscuits sales. The meeting agreed that purchasing stock was a good idea and that many volunteers meant that the delivery process and online transfer worked smoothly. Storage of stock for 2022 can be considered once we have permission to participate in 2022 biscuit sales.

##### ***Gift sale***

The gift sale was hosted outdoors this year and started with 1100 gifts and only 300 items remain, but some of these are the personalised decorations. This year everything was priced at 2 pounds and under.

Lessons learned were that the cheaper stock was more popular, but a good selection was available. The decorations provided as a gift to all children from parent council did offer the children not purchasing gifts to choose something but some of the older children were not as keen on taking a decoration. The children seemed happy with the sale options available. We still have a stock of pocket money toys for use at other events if required. The decorations or cards will be considered this year.

### ***Christmas Treat***

There has been positive feedback from children including thank you cards for the treat mentioning s'mores and stories. Mrs Hughes was delighted with the gifts and happy with the donation to her choice of charity. Mrs Thomson joined room 7 and she enjoyed the event and it seemed the children were excited about it too. Parent feedback has been that the children really enjoyed it.

### **5. Planning for 2022**

The Parent council started with raising funds for the pantomime contribution with the miles challenge and the success of this meant we were able to subsidise the event more than in previous years. Families also supported us with the gift sale and the coin challenge covered the cost of the yearbook contribution. These events were necessary at the time and we are now in a more positive financial position. The meeting felt it would be good to spread events across the year and for next year we will plan with Mrs Dunlop who leads on cost of the school day to spread events and ensure that we limit the financial impact of events on families. The meeting decided to focus on an event in the last part of the session to give us a head start for the next school year.

### **6. Parental engagement**

This remains an agenda item and the meeting agreed to send out a parents' newsletter to advise of the contribution to the pantomime from the miles challenge. The coins pictures to the yearbook and to thank parents for supporting the gift sale and the biscuits. Kathryn will update the newsletter.

### **7. Meeting platform for the remainder of the year**

The current SLC guidance is to keep meetings virtual at present to ensure everyone is safe and well. Jennifer will cancel the lets for the remainder of the year. The planned date for the February meeting is on the in-service day. It was agreed to move this by a week and then also push the March meeting back by a week.

### **School business s**

### **8. January Calendar**

Mrs Thomson advised classes back in bubbles and staff absence has made the bubbles the easiest way to manage across the school with current guidance. She advised children can still mix outdoors just not indoors. She advised they are hoping to reinstate indoor PE as soon as they can. She highlighted it is infant enrolment week and this is online this year. Primary 5 will start the block of swimming soon and that 25<sup>th</sup> March is the P1 dental inspection. All other information is available on the Sway

which will go out this week. Lucy's Blue Day has been rescheduled twice but the school is trying to ensure it goes ahead with an in person visit as soon as possible.

### **Active Agenda**

Nothing received.

### **To carry forward Charitable Status**

The meeting agreed this needed discussion in person, and currently is not an urgent issue.

### **Next meeting 22nd February 2022 followed by 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022.**

Kathryn thanked everyone for attending and providing feedback from the events they were involved with.

**Meeting closed at 20:20.**