

Robert Owen Memorial Primary School

Parent Council

Minutes from the meeting held via Zoom on the 11th November 2021 at 19:30.

1. Welcome

Kathryn welcomed everyone and a special welcome to Erin and Vikki as new faces joining the zoom call.

Present

Kathryn Gartshore Chair, Bronwen Aidoo, Mrs Thomson Head , Gillian Drummond, Catrina Murdoch, Vikki Epton, Ina Marshall, Laura Black, Kirsty Gray, Lis McNally, Erin Barrie, Annie Smith, Susan Girvan, Mrs McCallum, Mrs Allan, Claire Froot, Fiona Barr, Claire Orr, Gemma Good, Victoria Day.

Apologies

Miss McAllister, Gareth Brown, Fiona Rogerson, Pauline Donnelly, Vicki Waugh, Erica Baillie, Joan Macmillan.

2. Agreement of October minutes

Proposed Fiona Barr

Seconded Gemma Good

School business

3. Curriculum Rationale

Mrs Thomson highlighted the new newsletter in Sway format as this can include videos. She advised this has had a positive reception from parents. The newsletter highlights most of the news. She thanked the parent council for the ongoing support. Mrs Gardiner is being seconded to Dalsersf Primary from the 6th of December 2021.

Curriculum Rationale was discussed the meeting provided some examples of how the school meets the 4 capacities of the Curriculum for Excellence of:

Successful learners

Confident individuals

Effective contributors

and Responsible Citizens

Mrs Thomson thanked the meeting for the contributions and examples provided.

Parent Council Business

4. Finance Update

Balance £1789.53 with £48 pound to come off = £1741.24

Coin profit was £191.71 which will bring balance to £1933.24 once paid in.

The miles total £983 to be paid to the school.

Borders biscuit income so far £657

Biscuit cost £508

So £149 in profit for biscuits already.

There are still expenses for the gift sale to come off and will only be finalised after the gift sale concludes.

5. Fundraising updates review and plans

a. 2021 miles totals, review and panto contribution 983 pounds

We walked 2696.3 miles and raised more than what we probably expected. This contribution was advertised as for the panto contribution. The parent council usually contributes £1.50 per head and last year the parent council provided a virtual pantomime. Mrs Thomson confirmed the Panto is going ahead in person. The school usually ensures every child who wants to go can go. Following discussion the meeting made a unanimous decision to give the total of 983 pounds to the school by cheque for the school to use towards the pantomime and decrease the cost, for all pupils.

b. Coin picture total and review

The coin pictures raised £191.71. The judges said the pictures were very imaginative all pictures are on twitter and in the Sway newsletter and the prizes for classes have been provided to school. Thanks to Gemma and Fiona for the posters.

c. Borders Biscuits updates and next steps.

Current profit is 149 pound, sales have been going well and as we had direct contact with the rotary club we were able to take on bulk stock so we could then supply orders as they came in. Remaining stock is

Gingers 30

Classic 2

Chocolate 12

The meeting discussed options for selling biscuits at the Gift sale but this would be higher than the gift sale maximum, remaining biscuits could be donated to the teachers or any parents that are able to generate extra orders through workplace sales if appropriate would be appreciated. Thanks to all volunteers for delivering biscuits.

d. Gift sale update from subgroup and next steps.

Gift sale subgroup, have a good selection of gifts for all family members and a profit will be made from every sale. Due to the Gift sale being outdoors due to COVID restrictions make of cards will not be suitable. The subgroup has suggested wooden tree ornaments which each child will receive which they can decorate in class and take home. The meeting agreed to this. Fiona and Gemma will create posters and the school will arrange rota for classes to visit the sale. There are currently 8 volunteers, if anyone else would like to assist, please advise Kathryn. Kathryn thanked everyone for all the help and support, for the sharing the load and thanks to Miss McAllister and office for helping to publicise our events. Final details will be confirmed by email.

6. Christmas gift/ treat to classes

In Previous years a cash donation was given to each class, due to limited funds no donation was made last year. The meeting felt that a treat for all the children would be more appropriate and memorable as well as financially less taxing. Following discussion, the meeting agreed to provide snacks around the fire pit and source a storyteller to tell a story

around the fire pit. This will be confirmed and discussed further by email with all parent council members in run up to Christmas.

7. Parental Engagement

This continues to be a focus and all parent council information is shared via all school media thanks to the support from Miss McAllister and the school office. A newsletter is planned in January 2022.

Active Agenda

Two issues have been raised via the parent council email.

8. Christmas gifts to staff/ Alternatives

Last year the school sent out a letter stating that the school is asking that no gifts are given to teachers for Christmas. A discussion took place as to whether there is an alternative to a gift for teachers or other options. The meeting discussed options but a number of members expressed that they are always concerned about the children who are unable to contribute a gift or item for other causes. Mrs Thomson advised that the teachers appreciate the sentiment of a gift to thank them, but the school will be advising that no gifts should be sent into school in line with the cost of the school day advice.

9. Technology and TERMTACULAR treats.

A discussion took place about "Bring your own technology" as a TERMTACULAR treat which happens at the end of each term/class treat. Concerns were shared about frequency, damage and accessibility for all.

Mrs Thomson advised that Digital schools is a current focus for the school and that moving forward, in preparation for transition to high school, P7 children may be allowed to bring in their own technology from April to June in P7 but this will be communicated with parents first.

There are ipads and chromebooks available in class for those who do not have access. If technology is brought in it is at own risk and school will not take responsibility for any items brought in from home that become damaged.

Mrs Thomson stated that she is only aware of this being an option at TERMTACULAR. The Promoting Positive Behaviour system and TERMTACULAR reward is under review at present. TERMTACULAR options usually include options the children themselves have suggested and it is likely the children may have suggested this as an option.

Kathryn thank all the members for their patience with recurrent log ins on zoom call and thanked everyone for their contribution.

Meeting closed at 21:07

Next meeting 11th January 2021 via Zoom.

