

Robert Owen Memorial Primary School

Minutes of the Parent Council meeting held on 6th October 2022 at 19:30 in the School Staff Room.

Welcome

Gemma and Laura welcomed everyone to the meeting. They extended a special welcome to anyone attending in person in the staff room for the first time or joining the meeting for the first time.

Present

Margo Thomson, Mrs Allan, Lynsey Roebuck, Gareth Brown, Laura Black (Co Chair), Catriona Murdoch, Claire Froud, Vikki Epton, Kathryn Gartshore, Gemma Good (Co Chair), Fiona Barr, Ina Marshall, Vicky Day, Joanne Harrington, Bronwen Aidoo (Scribe), Erin Barrie.

Apologies

Jenni Smith, Annie Smith, Janey Watt, Miss McAllister, Gillian Drummond, Erica Baillie

Parent Council Business

2. Finance Update

Gareth advised the Bank balance stands at £1401.63. He also advised that 2021-2022 accounts are with Fiona Lawn who kindly audits them. Feedback will be received at the next meeting.

The meeting was advised that the schools Easy Fundraising page has £244.55 in it at present. This was set up by Mrs Gardiner and Gareth will look into how to access the funds. Several parents advised they have been using it regularly. The meeting agreed the details of the page will be shared in the newsletter and the schools monthly sway to try and increase use and thereby support fundraising.

3. Plan for the year. Fundraising Limitations, Grant Opportunities, Financial Commitments.

The meeting agreed that, due to the impact of the current financial climate and the cost of the school day, fundraising prior to Christmas would be limited to Borders Biscuits and the Christmas Gift Sale. The meeting agreed we would try to fund what is usually funded but not put additional pressure on families by excessive Fundraising. It was confirmed that the two events would not create any burden or pressure on families to participate as the Christmas Gift sale always has an option to create a card even if gifts are not purchased.

Mrs Watt had sent her apologies but had asked Mrs Thomson to advise that the nursery had always previously run an extravaganza fundraiser with stalls at Christmas time, but this has not gone ahead due to covid restriction in the past two years. Nursery was considering planning a similar event in the spring and wanted Parent Council to consider if we would like to partner with the nursery regarding this. The meeting agreed this could be considered and will be discussed in greater detail at further meetings. Mrs Thomson clarified that Nursery does receive funding for graduation and do complete their own fundraising. The Parent Council does include nursery in planned activities and will consider the nursery in further planning.

The meeting acknowledged that Grants are available, but these are usually focused on funding particular items and also usually require some community involvement. A member advised that local quarries may have grants available and that the Parent Council could consider approaching

them. Laura Black will look into this and feedback at the next meeting. Mrs Thomson advised that the school considers grants and will advise parent council if there is anything that might suit a grant application that the Parent Council can support.

The meeting considered the usual financial commitments.

One of the largest contributions has traditionally been a payment to reduce the cost of the tickets to attend the Pantomime at the Memorial hall. There was discussion regarding whether attending the pantomime was suitable for all the children, particularly younger children, and due to the cost of attendance. The meeting agreed that the school should feedback any concerns they had regarding the performance raised by parents to the Memorial hall. The meeting also agreed to consider other options used in the past of an online pantomime for a fee, or bringing a local drama group into the school to provide a performance.

Kathryn Gartshore will find details from previous years online panto and provide these to Laura and Gemma. The meeting will discuss this further at the next meeting.

The following financial commitments were agreed with approximate costs noted.

Yearbook deposit of £150.

Ties for leavers to High School and T shirts for Primary 1s were agreed with approximate cost of £550.

Christmas treat: The meeting felt a treat was more appropriate and cost effective than a cash donation to classes and the story telling worked well last year. Mrs Thomson will approach Mrs Hughes to see if she would be willing to return for this year. Last year a donation and a gift voucher were purchased to thank her for this event. Vicky Day advised she had a contact of someone who would be willing to visit the school as a life size elf of the shelf.

Silent disco and book sale will also be considered but will be discussed later in the year.

Waterproof jackets trousers and footwear remains an item that would be useful to provide but may not be suitable to fund unless a suitable grant can be identified.

Fundraising and meeting financial commitments will remain on the agenda for discussion at meetings.

4 Parental Engagement

The meeting agreed it would be good to get more parents involved and discussed opportunities for involvement during the year and supporting the school at events.

Suggestions were made that Parent Council members could assist with serving tea and coffee at school events. Mrs Thomson advised that Reading at school with parent/carers would be restarted in November and snacks and health food options would be included and help regarding this would be appreciated. She reminded any volunteers they would need to have a PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) check. For information on this please contact the school office for advice on current procedures, applications can be submitted online. For serving or preparing food, the volunteer may require a food hygiene certificate.

Bronwen Aidoo will draft a newsletter for dissemination soon to mainly advise that the parent council will be selling borders biscuits and to publicise the Easy Fundraising page.

5 Borders Biscuits

The application to take part in the Rotary Borders biscuits selling offer has been submitted and a response is expected soon. Gareth advised that he is happy to store the biscuits and feels that a bulk buy to be able to fulfil orders as soon as they come in works well. The meeting agreed to this.

Annie Smith, Fiona Barr, Bronwen Aidoo, Vicky Day, Joanne Harrington, Erin Barrie, Catrina Murdoch and Vicki Epton volunteered to assist with delivering biscuits once ordered. This will be arranged through the Parent Council email and then orders made up and despatched to drivers for doorstep delivery.

6. Christmas gift Sale

It was agreed with Mrs Thomson that Friday the 2nd December 2022 would be suitable for the gift sale. Venue within school can be discussed at November meeting. A sub committee of Gemma, Kathryn, Fiona and Vicki E will be formed to support purchasing and selecting stock.

Bronwen has the remaining gift bags and will advise the subcommittee of the amount remaining.

Ina, Bronwen, Catriona, Joanne, Claire , Gemma and Erin volunteered to help on the day of the sale.

Any other ideas for stock can be shared with the subcommittee. Further details will be confirmed closer to the date.

School business

7. School Improvement Plan

Mrs Thomson shared the School Improvement Plan and invited comment from the Meeting. This has been sent out to the full parent Forum by email. It is also available on the school website under resources school information, ROMPS improvement plan 2022-2023 for parents. This is a very full and comprehensive plan and focusses on a whole school approach.

8. Behaviour position statement

This has been reviewed and focuses on Nurturing and links well to the Emotion works programme that is being used widely in the school. It focusses on restorative practice and means the children are now having Fun 31, The right to play, on Fridays. For further information please contact a member of the school leadership team.

9. Homework

Information on homework was sent out via email at the start of term and homework diaries have not been issued as homework is now focussed on reading for pleasure, Giglets and Sumdog. Feedback was given to Mrs Thomson from the meeting. Mrs Thomson reassured parents that if any issues were raised regarding pupil progress or settling in, teachers would contact parents to discuss. Parents can contact the school office if they wish to speak to the teacher in their child's class. I pads have been provided to every teacher and once this is fully set up it will allow teachers to share children's learning journeys with parents in a similar way that ELC currently share information. The

school hope to implement this after the school holidays. Parents evening will go ahead, in person, in November and details will be shared shortly.

10. HMIE

The School is preparing for a visit from HMIE and the school management team are preparing for this. Parents will be invited to complete questionnaires and there will be an opportunity for parents to join a focus group. Parent Council chair will also be involved. The Parent council would like to support the school during this process in any way they can.

Active Agenda

11The Hayward review Reforming Scottish Qualifications.

The Parent council can participate by using the following links:

A short survey on the draft 'vision & principles' for the review: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YFSK9NW>

Sign up for more info here <https://mailchi.mp/connect.scot/z7v7b34ii8>

There's also a closed Facebook group for parents and carers to discuss the review - [Reforming Scottish Qualifications: The Hayward Review](https://www.facebook.com/groups/3548602345460604) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/3548602345460604>

12. Appointment to Education resources committee.

South Lanarkshire council is seeking members for this committee, any parent who is interested can contact Laura for information and the parent council can nominate the interested person.

Meeting closed at 20:55 and next meeting is on

Tuesday 1st November 2022 at 19:30 in the staff room.