

Minutes of the Robert Owen Memorial Primary School Parent Council meeting held by Zoom on the 22nd October at 19:30

Present

Kathryn Gartshore (Chair), Bronwen Aidoo (scribe), Catriona Murdoch, Miss Crookes, Jennifer Fisher, Erica Baillie, Mrs Thomson, Mrs McCallum, Susan Girvan, Fiona Barr, Mrs Gardiner, Joan MacMillan, Lis McNally, Miss McAllister, Miss Munro.

Apologies

Laura McCann, Claire Froom, Ina Marshall, Kereen McDairmant, Fiona Rogerson, Gareth Brown, Kirsty McFerran, Annie Smith, Vicky Day.

Welcome

Kathryn welcomed all to the meeting and hoped everyone had enjoyed the October Break and that the return to school routine had gone well.

Agreement of minutes of AGM

Proposed by Joan MacMillan, seconded by Catriona Murdoch.

School Business

School Updates

Mrs Thomson reported that all children are back and settled in after the school holidays. There have been no positive results for Covid 19 in the school up to now. The Zone 2 garden area has been all organised for loose materials, sand pit, mud pit, mud kitchen and only a tarpaulin for the sand pit is outstanding.

Work on the garden has been planned over the next three years. The focus for this session is to work on a sensory garden and the old beds have been removed and flattened. The paths are being put in and sensory plants will follow.

The school has been approved for ASN adaptation for an area behind the MUGA that will have AstroTurf and benches installed. This will hopefully become an outdoor safe area for the ASN children to access.

There is a mini forested area that belongs to the housing company behind the school and while they would retain ownership of the land, the school is negotiating to have access to the land to be used for outdoor learning. The school will be responsible for the upkeep of the land but it would be of benefit to the school to have access to land so close to the school.

Flu vaccinations were completed yesterday.

Parent Consultations

No parent evening will be held this November. The teachers will compile an interim report and then parents can have a follow up phone call if required. Arranging individual appointments for a school

this size would be very difficult and data protections concerns regarding access to personal data needs to be considered. If parents are concerned regarding issues with a child's school work they are encouraged to contact the school to arrange a time to discuss it.

Parent Council Business

Finance update – Gareth

Kathryn advised that two cheques had been cashed since the AGM for the school yearbook and for last movie night. This has left the bank balance at £1505.72. Kathryn also advised that the insurance that is required for parent council events that is arranged through South Lanarkshire Council has been received.

Feedback from the meeting with Tony McDaid on 22/10/2020

Kathryn attended this meeting via Zoom with Tony McDaid on behalf of the parent council and gave feedback to the meeting. The meeting provided a mix of information regarding issues affecting all schools in South Lanarkshire including primary and high schools.

Financial Commitments for 2020- 2021 and funding options for these

The meeting reviewed the usual financial commitments the parent council funds and the current bank balance and considered the survey results from the consultation with parents last year. The survey highlighted that parents valued the things that benefited the whole school more highly than specific year groups.

The meeting agreed to fund £150 for the provision of a virtual pantomime that could be accessed by the school. Kathryn will liaise with Mrs Thomson regarding this. The usual pantomime contribution would be approximately £750. The meeting felt this was good value. A more personalised Pantomime was available at £400 but given the limitations on fundraising this year it was agreed the £150 would be more appropriate.

The meeting decided for session 2020-2021 to commit to funding the virtual panto, a gift for the P1 next year and the P7 leavers ties and the £150 contribution to the yearbook.

Further financial commitments will be considered on a month-to-month basis. At the next meeting we will discuss the Christmas cash gift to classes that we have previously donated.

The meeting felt it would be a good idea to set a sub-group to focus on alternate fundraising options for the year. Kathryn will email the group to set this up.

Constitution update and Procedures

The current constitution states a maximum membership of 25 (advised to ensure that the group does not become too large); our current membership is 34. Kathryn has consulted with South Lanarkshire Council who support a temporary change in member numbers to help keep parents connected during the current situation. The proposed change in constitution requires that all parents in the school be notified of the proposed change to membership numbers which can then be endorsed at the next meeting and recorded as a change to the constitution. The meeting agreed to propose the temporary membership change for session 2020-2021 and discuss membership in more detail prior to the next AGM. Any member of the Parent Forum will continue to be made welcome at all meetings. It was noted that despite meetings being online, attendance was similar in number to

face to face meetings. It was suggested that Zoom could be incorporated into the face to face meetings if this was easier for some parents when face to face meetings resume - this will be explored further when meeting restrictions are lifted.

Parent Council Profile/ No Cost events

The last meeting considered if remaining Christmas gift sale stock could be used to provide a gift to each child however the stock is too small and not varied enough so this would not be suitable. Other suggestions considered were a Zoom quiz or virtual event that could be hosted by parent council that would require no cost for the participants and minimal outlay for the parent council. This will be considered at the next meeting. A Parent Council newsletter has gone out. Parental engagement remains a focus of the Parent Council and a regular agenda item.

Borders Biscuits

Kathryn has, today, received agreement from Lanark Rotary that if the Parent Council wish to sell Borders biscuits this year it would be possible. Following discussion with Mrs Thomson this would need to be done in a contactless way and would not involve the school office. The meeting agreed it would not contribute to the cost of the school day and would be a useful income generator. Kathryn will adapt previous paperwork and Miss McAlister will put it out via the social media platforms tomorrow. The form would be emailed to parent council email address, payment via bank transfer and contactless delivery to the doorstep.

Active Agenda

Facebook

A parent raised the issue that the ROMPS parent council does not have a Facebook page and she has been approached by parents who felt this would be a useful platform to share information and gain engagement. There are other schools that do maintain a Facebook page. The school currently maintains a twitter page, the school app and the school website. Miss McAllister advised that prior to any social media platform being set up that represents the school or Parent Council permission needs to be sought from South Lanarkshire Council. The criteria include that the Head Teacher needs to be a member of the page and that a staff member needs to be one of the admin of the page. Mrs Thomson also advised that every child in the school has an email address that can be used to advise parents/carers of information. The meeting discussed the issue and put it to a vote. It was unanimously agreed that a ROMPS Parent Council Facebook page would not be considered at present.

Uniform Shop

Parents have raised the issue of having a uniform shop available even if it is virtual, with one of the Parent Council members. Mrs Thomson advised that the school does have some uniform and always makes uniform available to any child that requires it. The clothing rail has been used in the foyer in the past and has been useful, but with current restriction it would not be possible. Mrs Thomson advised that teachers are aware of these issues and if the need arose uniform would be arranged for a child in a discreet manner.

Halloween

Mrs Thomson advised that Halloween activities will go ahead and a letter should come out tomorrow advising children can dress up or dress down for the 30th. Christmas parties and events will be considered later in the year.

Next meeting 19th November 2020 via Zoom

Meeting closed at 21:05

Minutes taken by Bronwen Aidoo.