

Robert Owen Memorial Primary school

Minutes of the parent council meeting held via zoom on 20 February 2024 at 7:30 pm

1. Welcome

Laura welcomed everyone to the meeting on Zoom and asked anyone without a screen name to identify themselves.

2. Present

Laura Black, Bronwen Aidoo, Ina Marshall, Mrs Ross, Fraser Dickson, Gemma Good, Mrs. Allan, Lorraine Dick, Nicola Wilson, Karen Graham, Catriona Murdoch, Erica Baillie, Suzanne Barrie, Fiona Barr, Vicky Wilson Day, Claire Frood, Erin Barrie, Kathryn Gartshore, Mrs Bradshaw. Jenni Smith. Gareth Brown. Vicky Epton.

3. Apologies

Karen Ramp and Anne Coubrough

4. Approval of January minutes

Approved Fiona Barr and Seconded. Erin Barrie

5. Finance update

Gareth gave update that current balance is £ 1441 .18 pounds with 40 pounds added by easy fundraising, no other deductions expected. This will be sufficient to cover expected outgoings for remainder of year.

School Business

6. Uniform Policy

Mrs Ross Gave update on results of the uniform questionnaire that was circulated. She advised a good response rate was received. She noted that the questionnaire options were taken from the school handbook that did not include the yellow polo shirt as ordinary school uniform.

Popular responses included white shirt and tie, and yellow polo shirt with purple sweatshirt with grey trousers/ skirt. This considered cost of school day, easy of washing, and sensory issues. The meeting felt that would be acceptable to have both more formal and less formal but stick to school colours.

For PE days: Yellow or purple shirt with purple sweatshirt and grey or black leggings, jogging trousers would be acceptable and children can come in wearing the pe kit or change if they wish.

Shoes can be trainers or school shoes with school trainers for PE were popular results.

Following discussion during the meeting it was agreed that:

Non pe day school uniform white shirt tie, or yellow polo shirt with grey trousers/shorts/skirts/pinafores.

Pe days jogging trousers/leggings grey/black with yellow or purple t shirt

Options of summer dresses in either yellow or purple or grey pinafores would be acceptable.

Ties could be encouraged in the upper school in preparation for High School but the fact Lanark Grammar was also consulting on uniform was noted.

Other suggestions made included:

- pupil designed ties,
- P7 leavers hoodie ordered early in session so can get use out of it. Or a Senior tie.
- Ensuring children who want to change shirt for PE especially in older classes would be allowed to change in private.

The meeting also felt that once the uniform was finalized it should be shared with ALJ to ensure clarity for anyone purchasing from them.

The pupils are still to be consulted regarding uniform. Once this has taken place details will be shared and encouraged for the rest of this session though it would officially come into force until August.

Mrs. Ross advised since the beginning of the year the children are looking smarter and the colours allow a sense of belonging and identifying who should and shouldn't be present on the playground.

Parent Council Business

7. Grant Applications

An application to the Loaningdale Trust been made for sports equipment, and this will be decided on the 27th March. Mrs. Hamilton is going to apply for borders biscuits grant for playground equipment. Mrs. Hamilton is completing exit report for previous Tesco grant to allow us to be eligible for an application for the Tesco grant in the future.

8. Fundraising activities

Discussion regarding further fundraising for the year took place. The meeting was aware that we can meet usual commitments with existing funds, but the school would benefit from any additional funds that would be available.

Sports Day refreshments were offered last year to raise profile more than to raise funds. Donations were received so could advise that refreshments are available and a donation is completely optional. This will be decided at a future meeting.

Ladie's night in school in 2018 was well supported, but school lets are no longer allowed to have alcohol and if this was to go ahead it would likely need to be held at an external venue.

Keepsake tea towels were raised as an inexpensive, meaningful option. Suzanne Barrie advised she will investigate options. Gemma Good will find out what company Lanark Primary have used and it was also suggested ALJ can quote for them. The meeting was advised that Nursery previously used www.classfundraising.co.uk. Suzanne advised she and her husband would be prepared to prep any scans required to upload for this. It was agreed that this fundraiser was a good idea and this will be discussed further at the next meeting once details are available.

The meeting felt further fundraising would not be required this session, but if the school wish to take anything forward the parent council would support the school in any fundraising they decide to undertake.

9. Pupil transport consultation

Survey on increasing high school pupil transportation distances has been extended and it is available on school and council's social media and everyone is encouraged to share their views.

10. P1 Gifts and summer Treat

Usually, parent council provide the P1 with either a PE t shirt or a waterproof bag. Traditionally P7 are gifted the tie they will use at High school. Following discussion the meeting agreed to make a decision on ties at the next meeting when there should hopefully be more information on the consultation on uniform at the high school. If a tie will not be required PE shirts in house colours were suggested as an option. P1 could still be gifted t-shirt in appropriate colour once uniform policy is finalized. This will be decided at the March meeting.

Summer treat options were discussed.

3 options were felt to be appropriate with the final choice offered to the children.

Clubbercise. Mrs Alan will contact Miss Murphy's friend to see if she would be willing to repeat last years summer treat. This included clubbercise in the school hall with glow sticks and an ice lolly.

Silent disco was done 2 years ago. Bronwen Aidoo will get quotes for the silent disco headsets and this could also include an ice lolly. .

Story telling round the firepit was a previous winter treat with smores. Mrs Bradshaw will approach Mrs Hughes to see if she is willing to tell stories. Options for snacks could be considered, but the pizza oven would not cope with providing pizza to the whole school on one day.

More information re costs and availability to be gathered on each option for the next meeting when we will decide which options to put to the children.

Looking ahead to the AGM

AGM usually takes place in May. Office bearer update.

Chairperson Laura would be happy to step down this year but would consider co-chair for this year but would need to step down in 2025.

Secretary Bronwen is happy to stay. as youngest is only P4

Vice Chair Fiona will be stepping down next year. Claire has agreed to stay on.

Treasurer Gareth would like to step down at AGM and would like to ensure smooth hand over of finances.

Ordinary members constitution allows for maximum of 25 for voting purposes. Currently there are 17 members.

If anyone is interested in the office bear role, please send Laura an email or approach an existing office bearer for discussion.

The AGM also allows for update of Constitution with notice to the whole parent body prior.

Discussion regarding the fact that we have a higher number of minimum meetings compared to other schools. If meetings numbers were decreased decisions might need to be made quicker due to less chance to discuss or bigger events could be delegated to a subgroup. Other schools also do not allow P7 parents to be office bearers to allow for younger pupils parents to be involved. The AGM could also be held in the new session to allow new P1 parents to join and become involved from the start of P1 year. These ideas can be considered and discussed in March. If anyone has any other ideas for the constitution or AGM please email Laura at the Parent council email address to share your thoughts.

Active Agenda

Nothing was submitted for Active agenda.

Next meeting 25th March staff room 19:30

Meeting closed at 21:00, Scribed by Bronwen Aidoo.