

Parent Council Meeting Minutes

12/09/2019 – 6pm

In attendance: Laura, Emma, Catriona, Kirsty, Tamsin, Lorna

Previous Minutes: No matters arising

Application form for Chair: Need to contact “Connect” to update them on who the new HT is and the new Chair of Parent Council, so that we are covered for insurance for Parent Council-led events. Public liability, personal accident etc...

Photos: What were our thoughts on the group photos? All positive. This is cheaper too, so will get the same company in to do individual photos. They have also offered to do family pictures after school, mini “shoots” getting studio quality photos for all the family.

The App: How are we feeling about the app? Is everyone using it and is the information helpful?

- All feel that it is helpful and informative. Older class photos are mostly posted to the app, younger class photos are mostly posted to Facebook.
- Payment for the app and website – proposing that the school pays half and could Parent Council pay the other half? Around £150-£200 per app. Agreed this was fine.
- There’s due to be an app being put forward by SBC that all schools will have to use, but that hasn’t come into effect yet. It might not be as good as our current app though so we’ll need to have a think at the time as to whether we use both apps or not.
- Tamsin has been advised that all GroupCall messages are to be sent by email now, as this saves on money.
- Newsletters are now only being sent by email to save on paper.

School Improvement Plan: Looked at key strengths and key areas for improvements, Catriona talked us through this.

- Thanks to all parents who have contributed to the school last year, it has gone really well, help with gardening etc has been a great asset to the school. The Friday club has really benefitted from their visits too.
- This year – each teacher has certain areas that they are championing in the school.
- Outdoor environment – will continue to be a huge focus.

Nursery: Ensure that the word is out there that the Nursery IS NOT closed. Can still apply to come to Sprouston at enrolment week. During enrolment week (November) SBC will look at these numbers and decide whether they will open next year.

- The Sprouston School sign that is being sourced will still have “Early Learning and Childcare” on it too.

- Open morning a few weeks before enrolment week. Catriona can walk them through the Nursery, Laura enquiring about a bouncy castle, could have things such as face painting, could invite Wednesday Sprouston toddlers, Kirsty B to come and do Hey Diddle Diddle, have the kids doing crafty activity that people could take away etc. Tamsin and Catriona will check when enrolment week is and book in an open day a few weeks before.
- Facebook group is public – maybe put more videos on?

School numbers: A few years ago, with numbers at 17 we went down to one teacher. 19 is the number when a school is supposed to be taken down to one teacher. We are currently sitting at 19. It's Census week next week (Government gather information for how many children on roll in schools).

- As long as we're at 20 by Census week we wouldn't change. SBC are aware that we are sitting at 19 but we have not heard anything from them yet – fingers crossed. Census week is next week, Wednesday 18th September is the deadline.
- If a decision is made to go down to one teacher, we can absolutely have an impact on this by voicing our concerns (loudly!)
- Google "Sprouston Primary School" – Ask parents to write a Google review and grandparents too! Google search, click on the reviews and click on "write a review". Tamsin will send out an email to ask. Also, when a Google search is done for "Kelso Primary School" Sprouston doesn't come up! Tamsin will look into this. But ask parents to keep searching periodically in Google for "Kelso School Sprouston Primary" to bump us to the top of the search list if possible!

Halloween party: Would like to have another one.

- Ask parents for a £1 donation and one person buy all the food.
- Halloween is on a Thursday this year. Party could be Tuesday 29th October or Friday 1st Nov.

Fundraising: Tea towels, mugs, bags, aprons etc. Agreed that we'll do this again this year.

Treasurers Report: Currently sitting with £3205.26

NEXT PARENT COUNCIL MEETING: Friday 25th October, Midday