

King's Park Primary School
Parent Council Meeting – 20 February 2019

Minutes

Present: Aoibhe O'Callaghan (chair), Laura Cockram (co-secretary), Karlyn Durrant (co-secretary), John Hackett, Warren Scott, Jasmine Mailley-Lapointe, Jacquie Mir, Jillian Phair, David Eke, Kate Bremner, Karen Chojnowska, Leanne Banks, Louise Duff

Apologies: Robert Wilson, Vicky Haylott, Carrie Kintore, Emma Cooke-Wilson, Gillian Russell, Phil Bowen, John Clydesdale

Minutes of the last meeting on 21 November 2018 - Outstanding actions

- ZO and PB will meet to discuss the School website, prior to any training for staff.
- Letter to parents of pupils who were in the recorder group was issued in December.
- A letter will go to parents asking for support on ensuring good behavior in the toilets after this terms newsletter has been issues. The newsletter will contain information about P7 monitors.
- LR will look at a parent questionnaire in advance of the P1 enrolment day (which occurs in May).
- Cost of the School Day actions – see agenda item below.
- LR will remind parents of the uniform policy in this term's newsletter.
- P7 hoodies have been distributed and are proving popular.

Actions

- ZO and PB to meet re web and training

Headteacher's update

School expansion

From August 2020 King's Park will become a 3-stream school (3 classes in all years). The School Building(s) will be expanded and upgraded as the current space is insufficient and some of it is not fit for purpose. Laurinda has met various architects to talk to them about the needs of the School and tendering for the project is yet to happen.

Staffing return

Laurinda will be doing this exercise shortly once she knows the number of classes for 19/20. The number of classes is set by Midlothian Council.

Midlothian Council budget

Laurinda emphasised that the School and Parent Council will look together at the impact of budget cuts, challenges raised and how we can pull together to find solutions together.

Parent consultations

The letter to parents about March parent consultations went home today. A letter to parents about King's Park evolving approach to pupil reporting (of which parent consultations are a part) was issued in January. Laurinda is working with all staff on changing the approach and all changes will be in place for session 19/20.

Seesaw app

A new tool which will be used a part of pupil reporting is Seesaw – an app which enables communication between school and home to share an individual pupil's learning. The School Learning & Teaching Group has a Seesaw working group which comprises a number of teachers trialling the app. There will be a training session on 22 Feb for all staff to build skills and confidence in using the app. In the summer term a pilot group of parents will test out the app and provide feedback on the information it provides. Seesaw will be available to all in the 19/20 session.

Nurture group

3 nurture groups are up and running as well as a social skills group. The nurture room is now open and in use. The room is funded by PTA funds (£2350). Thank you to the PTA.

Sensory room

The development of this space has been postponed until there is more clarity on the extension plans. This is because, unlike the nurture room which can be easily transferred to another space, the sensory room will have more permanent fixtures. A temporary space will be created in the meantime.

P1 curriculum eve

This event was held on 21 Feb and attended by around 30 parents. It consisted of a presentation on active learning, the role of play in learning, and what this means for King's Park. Parents then visited all 3 P1 classrooms. Feedback was positive. The information will be included in the incoming P1 parents' curriculum eve.

PTA update

- 80's night was a resounding success – thank you to Helen Beasley for organising it.
- Coffee mornings continuing. Has been requested that time changed to later in the morning, but this isn't possible due to the hall being in use. Next coffee morning planned for 22.3
- Quiz night set for 11th May, locations and tickets to be confirmed
- Summer fair planned for the 1 June
- Playground tidy planned – 27 April.
- Planned spending: Nurture room - ~£1500. Playground equipment, travel to choir – amounts to be confirmed

- Vacancies – Laura will be stepping down as PTA communications person at Easter. If anyone would like to volunteer or find out more about the role, please contact Laura, Miki, Dianne or Sarah in the playground or email kpps.pta@gmail.com
- Treasurer’s report: main account: £13,743.44; 100 club: £682.61; Christmas fair raised: £2565.82; 80’s night raised: £358.75

JP asked whether playground equipment previously bought by the PTA is being used. Laurinda replied that it hasn’t been well used, partly because Playground Pals has only been up and running recently in this session.

LC said that the playground was coming up frequently in PTA discussions (issues of safety, behaviour, the role of playground assistants, whether there are opportunities for constructive or meaningful play and whether the School need funds). The PTA are able to offer funds for equipment. However, the approach to play and the playground is not clear and the PTA have not had a clear ask regarding equipment.

Actions:

- LR to provide an overview at the next Parent Council meeting
- LR to look into getting existing equipment used

Parent Council response to Midlothian Council budget cuts and discussion about our longer term strategy

The Parent Council sent a letter to Midlothian councillors and our two constituency MSPs prior to the Council meeting about budget cuts. We also sent a follow up email about the impact of the cut to the Sports Development Team.

We would like to develop a longer term and ongoing response to budget cuts, focused on providing solutions in response to cuts and joining up with other Parent Councils in Midlothian to campaign where we think we can have an impact.

John Hackett (Midlothian Councillor) said that the Education Department has a 1.25% efficiency savings target over next 12 months. He said that cuts to non-statutory services which were rejected this year will come back again next year.

John would like to explore how to better engage with parents about best outcomes for children within the context of limited resources. John offered to share his experience of campaigning and influencing.

We will set up a sub-group of parents to focus on our long term response to budget cuts (advocacy, campaigning, lobbying etc). If you are interested email kpps.ptc@gmail.com

Action:

- AoC to set up a meeting of sub-group.

Positive behaviours exercise

It was agreed to run this as a stand-alone event for parents as we have run out of time to do it at two consecutive meetings. The aim of the event is to gain input from parents on the formation of School approach to positive behaviours.

Action:

- LR to identify dates for this (to happen after parent consultation) and email AoC.

Sub group updates

- Pupil reporting – see Headteacher update
- Inclusion, wellbeing and equality – A great deal of effort has gone into supporting the development of the nurture room including securing the furniture and other materials like the games. Donations of the furniture and £1.7k have also been secured from companies and we will properly acknowledge this along with the school. Initial discussions have also taken place around setting up a social / support group for parents of children with additional support needs.
- School handbook – the group have a skeleton structure, having investigated other Schools' handbooks to identify good practice. Next step is to assign content areas next for people to work on.
- Cost of the School Day – the group have put together uniform packs and PE kit packs for teachers to distribute. Funds will also be used to make a contribution to travel costs of trips.
- School spaces – the School have done a lot of work to make the reception area more welcoming. There are now display boards in front entrance with staff pictures, information about the current School Improvement Plan, House Captains and Pupil Groups. Please come and see these! There is also an electronic screen in the reception. It was suggested the School could make use of the 2 noticeboards in the playground.

Actions:

- LR to look into use of noticeboards in the playground.
- LR to set up a group of parents to work with School on use of current spaces and the plans for extension

Approach to homework

JP raised the issue that there are many different understandings among parents about the School's approach to homework and asked Laurinda to clarify.

Action:

- LR to provide an overview at the next Parent Council meeting

Nomination of Connect Director

Connect are looking for Midlothian representatives on the Connect Board. All parents are welcome to apply (nomination by the Parent Council is required). Please email kpps.ptc@gmail.com if you are interested.

Key messages

A brief update will be posted on Facebook and Pigeon following Parent Council meetings. Minutes will follow when finalised.

AOB

None