

King's Park Primary School Parent Council

Meeting Minutes of Wednesday 19th February 2020

Minutes

Present: Leanne Banks, Emily Cairns, Karlyn Durrant (Co-Secretary), Julie Findlay (Depute Head,) Jasmine Maillet-Lapointe, John Hackett, Jennifer McKay (Class Teacher), Aoibhe O'Callaghan (Chair), Barbara O'Loughlin, Zoe Orr (Depute Head), Leila Raeburn, Alex Redford, Laurinda Renton (Head Teacher), Laurent Yah, (PTA Treasurer).

Apologies: Jillian Phair, Robbie Pearson.

PTA Update:

LY circulated graphics to show the monies that are being spent or due to be spent for the rest of the school year. The PTA are hopeful that they can raise £10k, they have raised £4,435 already.

Jamie Dougal has been asked where further spending could be of use in school and this needs to be finalised and confirmed back to PTA.

The Kintore Trust has raised £1000 for the school.

The position of PTA Co-ordinator has been advertised but no-one has expressed interest as yet. LY has asked that we spread the word for this vacancy and also said that the PTA needs additional helpers to suggest ideas and run fund-raising events with support.

ACTION: JD to confirm spending requests to PTA

Midlothian Council:

Cllr. John Hackett attended this evening to update us on Midlothian Council budget news.

John is interested to hear parent views on school sizes. Changes in school sizes and catchments gives parents an opportunity to help reshape local schools including King's Park. John also informed us that the council budget is coming up and the school estate will be looked at and expenditure will be

reduced by 17%. Services such as cleaning will also be reduced. Schools need to look at how they spend money and budgets and they will need to spend as wisely as possible.

JH suggests that King's Park PC meet with other ASG parent councils to discuss the best way forward regarding the cuts. There will be more cuts to come over the next 2 years.

AOC said she has spoken with the council re consulting with parents on the school transport issues and they told her they would get back to her.

JH suggested that we as a parent council let our authority know what we would like the consultation to look like.

ACTION : AOC, KD & JH to liaise to arrange ASG meeting.

Headteacher Report

LR informed us that a review needs to be carried out regarding the cuts. Class contact time for teachers may be set at 22.5 hours a week. This could mean that to cover teacher non contact time other teaching opportunities may be lost, for example the French teacher. LR will keep us up to date with the progress of the cuts..

The school has now introduced ACE certificates for the children to earn within class. Marvellous Mondays have also been introduced, this is when the child who has earned the certificate will have tea and biscuits with Mrs Renton, this will happen once a month. The certificates are awarded and the children celebrated at weekly school huddle.

LR would like to highlight to parents/carers the improved communication from school to the parent body this year. There has been the introduction of SEESAW which is going very well, there have been school open days and by the end of the year there will have been 3 Parent Consultations. Pupil end of year reports will be sent home in March and the 3rd Parent consultation will be after this. The report has been cut down in length due to more communication from the school through other ways such as Seesaw and an extra consultation evening. An evaluation will go out to parents regarding the new method and to also ask them if the 3rd consultation could be carried out in a different way, for example including the child in the meeting to chat about progress and areas of concern or celebrate areas of achievement.

LR gave a staffing update: Miss Hoffman has returned after maternity leave. Mrs Turner is about to retire and a letter will go out to parents to explain what will happen to her class for the last term of the year.

The school choir has been asked to go and perform at Fairfield House at the leaving presentation of Dr Mary Smith, outgoing Director of Education.

Concerns regarding the playground and especially the back playground (P3/4) remain and no action has been taken up to now because of waiting to hear on the school extension plans. In the meantime, the school have commissioned a review by a Health and Safety company to look at the playground and make recommendations. JD has responsibility for this.

Active Schools

Leila R told us that Active Schools have had to close a few classes. There have been problems with availability of halls and instructors. There is a survey ready to go out to parents.

ACTION: Leila Raeburn to publish survey to parents

School Safety & Security

AOC raised a concern with irresponsible parking at school and nursery drop off and pick up again. This is an ongoing problem with no improvement and has become a serious safety issue. Both ends of Croft street are congested with drivers parking illegally across double yellow lines, ignoring time restrictions, mounting the kerb, and creating obstructions and blocking safe routes for children to school. Children and families coming to school on foot are having to navigate around illegally parked vehicles with some children having to manage this alone. **AOC** asked for an update on the school initiatives. **LR** informed us that JRSO's (Junior Road Safety Officers) are in place and have been trained. Park Smart posters also being created.

All agreed that putting the responsibility for road safety onto pupils isn't fair and that for some, this won't be enough of a deterrent and we have to get parents involved in getting the safety message across to the minority who park illegally.

ACTION: AOC will contact the Community Police officer again to see if the police presence can be increased and whether a campaign could be run.

Communications

AOC informed us that Jillian Phair is aware she hasn't been able to attend recent meetings but said she would still be happy to help with communication and engagement.

ZO has made contact with the app producer. The new app that is being looked at has good functionality and it has more flexibility for things like announcements, attachments and there is a calendar. Surveys can also be used on the app.

ACTION: ZO will take new app forward with developers to be rolled out asap.

LB asked if we can track the usage of Sumdog and SEESAW?

LR said we can with SEESAW but not Sumdog.

AOB

HOMEWORK: The school currently doesn't have a Homework policy and it is not part of the improvement plan for this year.

ACTION : LR to review with staff and consider including in Improvement Plan discussions for the next meeting.