

# King's Park Primary School Parent Council

## Meeting Minutes of Wednesday 30th October 2019

### Minutes

**Present:** Emily Cairns, Lauren Doody, Teresa Doherty, Karlyn Durrant (Co-Secretary), Julie Findlay (Depute Head,) Jen McKay (Class Teacher), Aoibhe O'Callaghan (Chair), Zoe Orr (Depute Head), Robbie Pearson, Jillian Phair, Leila Raeburn, Laurinda Renton (Head Teacher),.

**Apologies:** Barbara Gubbins, Vicky Haylott, Jasmine Lapointe-Mailley, Alex Redford.

#### **Actions Carried over and Outcomes:**

- **COSD: LR and Jamie Dougal to finalise letter to parents with review/input from AOC and Rona Duncan. Letter will be sent this week. Aoibhe, Barbara and Tamara have made up uniform packs which will be available to staff at their discretion. Homework packs are being collated and will be offered to all.**
- **LR has made progress with the parking issues outside the school and Ms McKay will be leading a programme called Park Safe with some pupils that will take on the role of JRSO's. Miss McKay has organised the pupil groups and they are being trained. There is hope for this to be up and running before January 2020.**
- **AOC has ongoing communication with the council regarding the fair and the amusements. AOC has sent an email and letter on behalf of Parent Council to the relevant Council department.**
- **LR has dealt with the dog issues in the playground and will also put in the newsletter the school rules regarding this. Newsletter was sent out so parents should now be aware of the school rules.**
- **JD is continuing to work with playground initiatives and will be introducing playground pals. This has started and there seems to be more structure in the playground. Equipment is being used.**
- **ZO has completed the school handbook. New P1 parents received this and have been asked for feedback. Now available on the school website.**

## **PTA REPORT**

The main PTA account currently has £6k. The PTA will meet with JF and LR to discuss further spending. The PTA donated £500 to go towards the purchase of new i-pads that were stolen during the break-in. The PTA events raised as follows: Quiz night £220, Coffee Morning £200.

The school tidy day unfortunately had to be cancelled due to forecasted bad weather conditions, however some parents came anyway and tidied up the forested area.

Halloween discos will be organised for next year as long as school let and helpers are both available.

Xmas cards, the date has passed for this and orders are being processed.

SWAP SHOP clothes swap event is organised for November.

Beach Party disco for parents/carers is organised for Feb 2020.

PTA is seeking an additional volunteer to help out with running the School Uniform thrift shed (Fridays at 12.15-12.45).

## **SUB GROUPS**

**AOC** spoke about the benefit of having small working groups of a couple of parents/carers working on long or short term objectives.

There are areas where school life and pupil experiences intersect with council services so an external working relations group could facilitate parents working alongside Midlothian council officers/departments connecting with other community organisations or parent council members from Associated Schools Groups. The group would work with their external partners on issues such as Active Schools, School Transport, Music tuition and future public consultations from the council (eg on budget and service planning) so that parents & children are consulted and involved at the beginning of the process.

**AOC** said that the instrumental music tuition working group is already meeting and she is attending on behalf of King's Park. In order for the service to continue, uptake needs to reach levels prior to introduction of fees. There are a number of bursaries and reduced fees for applicants in receipt of free school meals or other circumstances and application should be made to Jake Herriot at MLC.

**AOC** is also working alongside Annette Lang from ML Council and also attending other ASG school parent council meetings. We may also be able to tap into One Dalkeith.

**Leila R** Commented that she had met with the Active Schools representative and AS needs to be promoted more within the school. Judo has now finished and won't be returning. There is a slot available for a tutor on a Monday. Would there be parents at the school who might be willing to take up this slot to tutor a sport?

Parent Council could promote this.

Active Schools receives funding from Sport Scotland and the council but the council requires the service to be self sufficient.

**Leila R** will email the school with further details and findings and try to link in with **Jamie Dougal** to see what the children may want?

The other sub-group that was discussed was a **Communication Sub-Group**. This was to help improve the communication between the school and the parents. The school website, the pigeon app and letters all need to be improved or tweaked slightly.

**L Renton** - Are there any parents that have knowledge in these areas that could help? The school currently does not have full editorial/developer control of the website and still needs to ask Phil Bowen to carry out certain functions. The parent council could look at having a rep for these matters as they develop.

(SeeSaw is a separate initiative and would not be included in these developments.)

**ZO** has had input from digital services.

**Jillian Phair** offered her help and is happy to support a communications sub-group. Another parent volunteer is also required for this.

## **SCHOOL TOILETS**

**E Cairns** - raised concerns from children/parents of some cases of missing toilet seats, holes in doors (locks), smells, and wet, slippery floors. Parents have spoken of some pupils avoiding the toilets with some not drinking to avoid needing to use the toilets.

**L Renton** commented saying that she and Mr Burt (janitor) are very aware of conditions and they are regularly monitored. There can be a problem with recurring breaks to the same items and then a timelag while waiting for replacement components. **LR** will take the issues raised back to Mr Burt and they will review.

Julie Findlay and Zoe Orr agreed to use Huddle to remind pupils re. desired behaviour in the toilets.

**L Renton** - In order for school staff to address any specific incidents or problems on any given day, they rely on parents to inform the class teacher or a member of the senior leadership team. If children are coming home with reports of issues or concerns **LR** asked that parents always mention it to the class teacher in the first instance so that school are always aware if there has been a problem.

**EC** queried reports re. ML Council making toilets Unisex, **LR** replied to this by directing parents to the recent statement from the council regarding this matter.

## **HEAD TEACHER REPORT**

### **Visions, Values and Aims:**

The leaflet has gone out to parents and the VVA's have now been launched. The Vision is "Kings Park Cares".

Assemblies have been held for the children to embed this.

Fishy Music have been into school and Kings Park now have their own song called KP Galaxy. Mrs Thompson has been organising this and it is giving a sense of community to the school. The school are considering having pop-up banners advertising the VVA's. The children will also be doing posters.

**LR** informed the PC that she has been appointed Associate Assessor for ML Council. This will involve visiting other schools with inspectors to evaluate what is working well in other schools with a view to bringing ideas back to ML Council and King's Park.

**Julie Findlay (Depute)** has been asked to lead Numeracy Training for Midlothian Schools. This is a position that is new and more staff are getting involved.

The new Learning Assistant posts have now been filled.

The school are continuing to increase the number of interventions offered to support children including: Fresh Start, Read Write Inc, Numeracy, Social Groups, Capacity Building with staff.

ASD support in place with Yoga delivered by Donna Nelson in the school nurture room. There is also a visiting Therapist, Lego Therapy and the whole-school Emotion Works programme.

The parents summary has gone out for the Improvement Plan.

**REPORTING:** Following feedback received from parents in general as well as via the Parent Council's 2017/18 survey, School Reports are being redesigned for the end of this academic year. In the new way of reporting, reports will remain short-form, but they will be sent out at Easter and there will be a further (3rd) Parent consultation after this report before summer break to enable discussion so that parents know where their child is in their learning journey before they reach the end of the school year. The school report should not contain any surprises: any concerns that either teacher or parent has about the young person's learning, should be raised as soon as possible with teacher/parent so that a discussion can be had and action taken as early as possible.

### **ACTIONS:**

- **AOC & BG to continue compiling school uniform packs and homework kits.**
- **L Raeburn to contribute to External Working Group covering Active Schools - link with Jenna & Jamie Dougal and contact Donna Nelson re Monday slot.**
- **ECairns and AOC to contribute to External Working Group on Music Tuition.**
- **J Phair to contribute to Comms Group - development of new app/website.**
- **R Pearson to contribute to External Working Group covering School Transport.**
- **SLT to audit toilets/repairs and reiterate desired behaviour at Huddle.**







