

King's Park Primary School Parent Council Meeting 18th September 2019.

Minutes

Present: Emily Cairns, Teresa Doherty, Karlyn Durrant (Co Secretary), Julie Findlay (Depute Head,) Vicky Haylott, Sarah Kane, Jasmine Mailley-Lapointe, Hanna McDermott, Aoibhe O'Callaghan, Barbara O'Loughlin, Robbie Pearson, Zoe Orr, Leila Raeburn, Alex Redford, Laurinda Renton (Head Teacher), Robert Wilson.

Apologies: Laura Cockram, Louise Duff, Julie Sutherland, Tamara Kennedy-Milne.

Actions Carried over and Outcomes:

- **COSD: LR and Jamie Dougal to finalise letter to parents with review/input from AOC and Rona Duncan.**
- **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.**
- **AOC has ongoing communication with the council regarding the fair and the amusements.**
- **LR has dealt with the dog issues in the playground and will also put in the newsletter the school rules regarding this.**
- **JD is continuing to deal with the playground and will be introducing playground pals.**
- **ZO has completed the handbook for the school. New P1 parents received this and parents will be asked for feedback.**

Active Schools

AO welcomed **Sarah Wright** (Active Schools coordinator for Midlothian Council) to the meeting. Sarah had come along to inform the meeting of the changes within the Active Schools department.

A new booking and payment system has been introduced for AS and there have been some teething problems with this. AS have had feedback that it seems to be operating well in sport and leisure not in education (after school and lunchtime clubs). ParentPay is not available for AS. The pay management system that is being used is called Legend and all AS activities can be accessed and paid for online using this system.

Leila Raeburn commented that there seemed to be a problem with too many children and not enough spaces. She experienced difficulty in signing her child up to a club at KP as there were only 20 spaces for the whole year group. There will be new activities added to the current programme after the October break.

JM commented that the sudden changes to sports clubs at KPPS have had and will have an impact on families. There are now fewer spaces as there are fewer coaches.

SW explained that over 6 months they looked at the coaching processes and this was not consistent across schools in the region. AS have stopped the coaches being able to take direct payments from parents but are happy for coaches to invoice the council for payment, however some coaches aren't happy with this new process so have removed their clubs from the option list. AS is seen as an extension of the school day. The sessions are tasters for children and the chance for clubs to promote the clubs. Martial Arts is the only area where there have been problems and their coaches have decided to withdraw.

AO said that changes to the clubs' presence at Kings Park was the main reason why SW had been asked to come along to the PC meeting, to explain the new set up and impact on clubs/families at KP.

JM feels that parents should have been consulted before the new process was put in place as to what they would want .

SW confirmed that Judo will stop for the time being.

AO asked if SW or colleagues in AS would welcome taking the discussion further with parent representatives from Parent Council at a separate meeting in the near future. SW confirmed she would be happy to do that.

AO to approach parents for this.

Head Teacher's Report

A summary of the School Improvement Plan for 2019/20 will be available to parents soon.

The 4 areas that the school will be focusing on this coming year will be:

1. **Numeracy.** Julie Findlay has a lot of experience in this area and will lead on this topic throughout the year. There will be training on Numicon for staff. Hopeful that the PTA will be able to offer some financial support to help to provide the resources needed.
2. **Writing.** Will be a focus for improvement across the school from nursery to P7.
3. **Learning and Teaching.** The school will be focusing on achieving planning and consistency in teaching approach across the school using methods based on sound research and pedagogy. What can we learn from other ASG schools achieving good outcomes?
4. **SSERC.** This is a Scottish initiative for developing and improving science teaching and learning within school. 2 members of staff that have undergone training on this and will be leading projects within the school. Will also be ASG collaboration.

School Security

LR confirmed that unfortunately the school had been broken into 3 times over the summer break and a number of things have been stolen including ipads used for learning and see-saw and small amount of cash. (No personal data was on the ipads.)

LR reported it at the time to the council who then send their staff to investigate and make a report to Midlothian Police. **LR** has also made a statement to Midlothian Police and is following

protocol with police and Digital Resources team in council.

The school security is being reviewed and improvements such as CCTV and security lights have been requested by the school from the council.

LR mentioned that there are some restrictions on how access is limited as Fire safety is a mandatory consideration when making changes to access to the playground.

AO said that the Parent Council will write to MLC to support the head teacher requests for security improvements.

LR informed of further discussions she has had regarding the school extension. Mary Smith, Director of Education at MLC will continue to review the whole school estate. The case for new schools are first assessed and then they look at Kings Park. Sandra Banks at MLC has said she would be happy to attend a PC meeting to update and inform the wider group of the plans. **LR** will invite her to speak at a future meeting. Building plans have been revisited as a result of budget constraints but **LR** can confirm that Kings Park will definitely get a newly built extension for the early years capped at a 2 stream with possible refurb as well.

School & Midlothian Council topics

AOC informed us that the cuts to school transport proposed by Midlothian Council for P7/S1s to Dalkeith High School had thankfully been delayed for another 2 years. This gives the council time to examine the impact of removing the existing service, costs and alternatives, and consult with parents and children. The scrutiny MLC proposals were put under by parents and parent councils, as well as questions from local councillors contributed a large part to this decision to delay. However, parents of upcoming P7 pupils will need to get actively involved with discussions with Midlothian Council once we hear from them about a consultation.

AOC also updated Midlothian Instrumental Music tuition: Parents should note that there are still some remaining spaces available for children from P4-P7 to learn a musical instrument.

Annette Lang is the Midlothian Council officer in charge of working to improve uptake in order to retain the instrumental music service. She has been in contact with KP Parent Council and is looking for the parent voice to help find out if this is sustainable. **AOC** will share dates for parent/pupil working group meetings once they are available.

Parent Council priorities for 2019/20 - Sub-Groups

As discussed at the AGM, the school and the Parent Council would like to form a Communications Sub-Group this year. The group will work alongside the SLT on ways to support communications to the school community. There will be an opportunity to examine and review the school website and the pigeon app for efficacy. Kings Park don't currently use the Midlothian Council Platform so this can be looked at.

Parent Council would be interested in hearing from any parents who may be interested in taking part in a working group with other parent/carers and staff to examine how we communicate to our parent forum and how this can be improved/streamlined. All are welcome to join, especially those with some experience in communications and IT.

AOC to co-ordinate/request input from parents/carers.

AOC asked whether there was agreement on 2 main areas of focus for sub groups: internal (Communications), and external (addressing ongoing issues with service partners such as Midlothian Council ie Active Schools, bus transport, instrumental music tuition, budget planning and consultations etc).

It was agreed that this was to be the main focus for the moment.

LR commented she was happy for sub groups to evolve according to need throughout the year as issues arise. One possible suggestion was a group to look at Homework

AOB

RW raised concern that the Children's University isn't being supported by KPPS anymore.

LR confirmed that this was the case as it had been decided at the ASG cluster meetings. The decision was taken partly due to the fact that the CU had introduced a cost last year and the HTs felt that this cost did not factor in the Cost of the School Day initiative to reduce fees and charges to families. Kings Park plans to recognise children's achievements in other ways.

ACTIONS:

AOC to coordinate w. Jamie & Laurinda re COSD and involve Rona Duncan if necessary.

- get storage bins for uniform packs & put in school
- confirm order for stationery packs & assemble for pupils

LR and Parent Council to look at junior road safety officers and discuss further ideas & solutions re car use around the school at drop off and pick up times.

AOC to email the council re siting of the funfair in Kings Park (late licence).

LR to send out Pigeon App reminder of ban on dogs in the playground, even dogs being carried.

LR to discuss with JD re playground pals.

ZO to continue with the School Handbook and also have further discussions re the website.

AOC to convene sub-groups and invite parents to take part.