

Udston Parent Council Meeting

Monday 26th October 2020 - 6.30pm via Zoom

Attendees

Members - Margaret Murray (Chair), Julie Whelan (Vice), Joanna Clabburn (Secretary), Fazia Baqir (Secretary), Liz Morrison (Treasurer), Arlaine McDonald (Treasurer), Richard McKenzie-Baird, Jean Miller, Elaine Craigen, Sheena Chadwick, Jennifer Faskin, Gillian Roberts, June Gray, Alison Yule, Lisa Warren, Gillian Scott, Laura Rainbow, Lynn McKenzie-Baird.

School – Elaine Henry (Headteacher), Susie Drennan (Principal).

1. Welcome & apologies

Following the AGM, the Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Parent Council for 2020/21, in particular the members newly elected to the Parent Council.

The Chair also recorded her thanks and appreciation to the Vice-Chair for stepping in to cover the Chairperson role from September to now, following the resignation of the previous postholder.

Apologies were received from Laretta Carey and Tosh Sandhu.

2. Financials

As stated at the AGM meeting, the Treasurer updated that there was £1387.48 in the bank. It was highlighted that we are due to pay £420 on the 9 December for the School App.

3. School Report

The Headteacher provided the following update -

During School Closure March – June, we were very reliant on families accessing our Learning and Teaching materials online. Also during this time, we had identified families whose IT access was limited & this information was passed to HQ. Specific criteria was required to be met, consequently 53 chromebooks were assigned to us after we came back in August. Almost all have been assigned, and we are waiting for a number of mifi devices to be made available for families also.

The Safe Return to School Guidance has meant lots of changes in how we usually operate, however, the children have really adapted well in the main. The control measures in place are now “the norm”. The authority ensure that guidance is available for all SLC schools and we have regular reviews to ensure all measures are in line with Scottish Government.

Google Classroom is our chosen platform for homework, and also for continuity of learning in the event of pupils self-isolating &/or temporary school closure. An

Information Leaflet was finalised with staff tonight and will be uploaded tomorrow. This explains the Home Learning programme we have in place. In the event of Blended Learning having to be actioned, we already have this in place as you know.

Since our return in August, a number of pupils and staff have self-isolated, and there have been positive cases within the school. Public Health are the lead in every case, and we must follow their procedures. Schools are unable to share any information – only Public Health.

Our spend with PEF funds is also discussed at Parent Council meetings, and likewise reviewed. This financial year we were allocated less money, but still enough to cover our additional staffing, and £3,000 to spend on resources.

Scottish Government and the authority continue to guide schools through these unprecedented times. Everyone's safety is paramount, and we aim to continue to do the best for our children, staff, families and school.

4. Easy Fundraising

Discussion ensued regarding the use of the Easy Fundraising app by members of the school community to raise free donations for the benefit of the School when shopping online. At present there were 28 people signed up to use the app and approximately £18 raised in a fortnight. It was agreed there was a need to encourage more parents/carers to use this app, particularly as Christmas approaches. The school agreed to issue communication on the Team App to encourage and remind the parent forum to sign up.

The following further opportunities to fundraise were discussed and it was agreed that these ideas should be spaced out across the school year to maximise the amount raised.

The Treasurer has set up a Paypal account and currently, we should encourage parents to use it as much as possible during the Covid-19 pandemic. There is a charge for each transaction and pricing of the items below may need to take account of that.

5. Christmas Cards/Calendar/Tea Towel

The Chair explained how the process has worked previously for pupils creating their own Christmas cards. It was agreed that the Parent Council would look to do the cards this year. The lead-in times will need to include additional time for the cards to be returned for a minimum of three days before being actioned due to Covid guidelines.

Calendars were another possibility to raise funds, if the school were able to take the photographs with the school camera. It was also suggested that the photos be put into snowflakes similar to the popular tree decoration used last year.

Getting the children to create images of themselves to be printed on Tea Towels was also supported with Easter suggested as a possibility.

The vice-chair said she would provide the school with some helpful links to show children a step-by-step guide to drawing their masterpieces.

6. Online Raffles

The Chair stated that she had collected a number of items to make some great raffles which could be undertaken online and would seek guidance on how to take this forward as quickly as possible.

7. Lucky Lottery/Bonus Ball

Further suggestion of a monthly bonus ball. There was recognition that this could be resource intensive, therefore volunteers would be required to help with the administration.

8. Any Other Business

The Chair is to start arrangements to order hoodies for the P7's following an anonymous donation of £500 to pay for them. These are to be given out at Christmas.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 23 November 2020 at 6.30pm.