

## **UDSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES 15.01.18**

#### **Attendees**

Carol Mitchell, Chris Barclay, Joanna Clabburn, Laura Rainbow, Faiza Baqir, Diane Miller, Helen Thomson, Lisa Warren, Nicola Philps, Julie Whelan, Sharon Smit, Sheena Chadwick, Mrs Henry, Mrs Turnbull, Mrs Drennan

#### **Apologies**

Gillian Scott, Liz Morrison, Jean Miller

#### **FINANCIALS**

Current balance is £3128.80. Still to debit two lets for Christmas fayre and Halloween disco. Cheque to be given to school to purchase the science education set.

#### **SCHOOL UPDATE**

Happy New year to everyone! The start of the year has begun on a positive note, which is always encouraging. Unfortunately, as you will already be aware there was cause for a Social Media letter to be given to all families at the end of last term. This was following an incident whereby a member of the Parent Council created a WhatsApp group, the manner and tone of which was unacceptable. Not only did it contravene the standard understanding of responsible use, the posts were very specific to myself as headteacher amongst others. Some posts were particularly threatening and intimidating. A number of parents felt extremely uneasy in respect of the subjects being discussed; were appalled at the lack of respect being shown by one particular member of the Parent Council and they contacted us to make us aware of the posts and the members. Head office was immediately made aware of these posts and they were extremely supportive of myself and the hard-working staff whose characters were also being slain. We have to say that everyone has been affected by this as we are very much a team at Udston. Teaching staff are often in school early to prepare lessons and likewise leave much later than most families would realise. Particularly so when staff had already committed a great deal of time and energy to prepare the children for the Christmas events – giving up an evening of their own time also. It was then quite difficult for staff to put all the negative comments to one side that had been made on this WhatsApp group, but we did it because we're here ultimately for the children. We also recognise that it was a very small minority of adults who were commenting in this way.

In conjunction with H.O., we have issued the Social Media letter to all families for parents to take cognisance of the fact that further action will be taken by the authority if it happens again.

On a positive note, we have been approached by many families since then to clarify their position with this – many people have wanted to completely distance themselves from the people involved.

We, as a school community, feel that we don't want to spend any more time and energy on such unnecessary negativity. No-one should feel threatened or intimidated by comments being posted by adults who are meant to be supportive of the school & working in partnership by being a member of the Parent Council. The Constitution is very clear about this, which is why it is on the Agenda tonight.

Christmas Shows and the Nativity were both great successes. The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed preparing for them & the audiences were fabulous. Our School Choir thoroughly enjoyed their success as winners of The Regent Centre Competition. Miss Arneil's class also really enjoyed being featured on Clyde 1's Countdown to Christmas. The children are at the core of our daily business & will continue to be our main focus.

### **CONSTITUTION**

Carol spoke to the parent council about what our role as members of the parent council is – to have a partnership with the school, respect them and support them and be role models to the children. She spoke about the issue discussed by the school with regards to social media and was upset that the parent council had been taken into this. As parent council members we are here for the children and we do not want our relationship with the school to be compromised in anyway. We have a strong relationship with the school and do not want that to change.

She has issued a copy of the constitution to all members and asked that everyone reads it, signs it and hands it back in.

### **CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

General feeling was that the fayre went well and it raised approx. £1700. Diane gave out a breakdown of the profit from each of the stalls.

Next year – possible ideas – pictures at Santa staff, have Santa cut a ribbon at the door, increase price of nails to £1.50 instead of £1

### **DISCO**

The next fundraiser is the Friendship Disco on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February at the school. Tickets priced £2 and children will get a glow stick and a sweet to leave with (love hearts?) The school will ask the children for requests for songs.

It was suggested to look at investing in plastic cups for water/juice for future discos instead of keeping buying cups

### **TREASURE HUNT**

This will be a fundraiser in April held in the school grounds. The children will be given a sheet to go to different stations and find a letter at each of them to make up a word. All children will get a sweet when finished and one will be pulled out for a main prize. It was suggested that we have different age categories so for example a p1-p3 p4-7 or each year prize. Chris will go in to school to talk to pupils at assembly and let them know what it is all about. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Laura to check with lets department about cost of let so we can decide ticket prices.

## **AOB**

School photos – There had been an issue with the photos that were taken originally that when they came back to be given out they were not very good. The school contacted the company who looked at them and agreed they needed redone. A date was rearranged and they were retaken however it will be looked at for next year to see what company to use.

Heating of hall at school fayre – The air conditioning was on for the Christmas fayre which resulted in the halls being very cold. This is something that the school have no control over turning off so Laura will contact the lets department to find out who deals with this and if it is a central until how do we get it switched on/off for future events.

**Next meeting Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February**