

Sciennes PS Parent Council Meeting

Thursday 20th September 2023 @ 7pm

Hybrid Meeting In School & via MS Teams

Voting attendees:

Caroline McKellar, Chair

Lead Sharkey, Vice Chair

Grant Catto, comms group

LeeAnne Boyle, Co Treasurer & Temp PVG Convenor

Anoushek Salahshour, Co Treasurer

Elinore Mc Givern, P1 Rep

Franca Macleod, P4 Rep

Gidona Henderson, P6 Rep

Shane Buckeridge, P7 Rep

Rachel Gregson, Fundraising & Events Co- Convenor

Claire Carr, Fundraising & Events Co-Convenor

Josie Pilcher, Fruit Group Convenor

Christine Knox, P5 Rep

Lena Lornez, P2 Rep

Non-voting attendees:

Sharon McGhee, HeadTeacher

Lucy Gallagher, DHT

Carolyn Anstruther, DHT

John Armstrong, DHT

Jenni McGrouther, Principal Teacher

D Gladstone, Class Teacher

Amanda Vardy, clerk

Steve Davis, Business Manager

Anelda Grove Dempster

Derwin Tarmbunan

Fiona Dow

Alan Paterson

Henry Preston

Tam Treanor

Sefton Laing

Rachel McGruer

The meeting was very well attended via MS Teams but no list of names available

Welcome

Caroline opened the meeting with a welcome to everyone and gave a brief overview of the meeting agenda.

A welcome to the new P1 Parents.

New Treasurer - Anoushek Salahshour

Succession Planning.

- New Chair & Vice Chair required before the end of the session to facilitate a smooth handover

Headteacher Update

Sharon McGhee

Ms McGhee opened with a quiz on facts about the school and an introduction to herself.

- Thank you to PC for ongoing support
- An overview of the recent school inspection
 - Meet with headteacher and does a self-evaluation of the school 'How Good is Our School'
 - Provide Evidence
 - Short Model (2 days)

- Summary of findings
- Children are enthusiastic learners
- Staff work well together
- Supportive/Collaborative culture
- High quality outdoor area in the nursery
- High levels of attainment in literature
- Improve approaches to assessing and tracking progress
- Develop understanding of learning
 - Going Forward
- Termly Learning
- Attainment meetings
- Nov/Mar – analysis of whole school learning data
- Transition data shared and built upon
- Shared Classroom experience
- Learning and Teaching Policy
- Community Learning Approach
- Peer Lesson study approach
- Moderation by the senior leadership team
 - Meaningful Leadership Roles
- Pupil Council
- ‘How God is Our School’ – Wee HIGOS
- Improvement Groups
- External Parties – Children’s Parliament, LGBTQI
- Individual Wider achievements
 - Improvement Cycle
- June – School Improvement Plan
 - Next Steps
- Strong Leadership
- Define Roles and Responsibilities
- Permission to be Bold
- Attainment Gap back to Pre-Covid Levels

“none of us are as smart as all of us”

- Discussion on Succession Planning and the appointment of a new Head teacher.
- Ms McGhee in post until Christmas
- Contact CEC – Councillor Kumar re Succession Planning
- Email Lynn Binnie with queries/comments re succession planning

Parent comment - CEC should be appointing a head teacher as a matter of priority – the school has 5 years of disruption to the leadership team

- Any further questions for the HeadTeacher to be directed to the admin@sciennes email address

Group Updates

Playground Update

Caroline & Cllr Steve Burgess

- Extending playground into road area permanently
- Working hard with local councilors, a very supportive team but unable to attend the meeting tonight
- No feedback from Legal advice which was shared with CEC
- Restricted access during school hours – full road closure during those hours
- Active Travel – not begun the TRO design yet, will work with the PC/school on this
- TRO still not completed
- TRO partial closure – one path of public access – if this is the only option achievable then it needs to be done right
- Heras fencing to remain in place until TRO is finalized
- Andrew Easson – Head of Road Safety and Active Travel
- PC would be happy to fundraise to accommodate the change of road to playground and any equipment required.
- Ideal Scenario Request
 - 850m2 extra to the playground
 - Community space for use in the evenings and weekends
 - Safe space during school hours
 - School hours – 5 days per week, 39 weeks per year
- Playground/Road Closure to be discussed further at next meeting
- *Grant – should be no cars near the school within the restricted zone – clear guidelines of access*
- *Cllr Kumar – take signage forward, children to have right of way to cross from school to nature strip*
- *Contact Grange Association*

Comms Update

Grant Catto

- WhatsApp – 341 members
- New Website now live - clubs/ merchandise via website
- Many thanks to Caroline re The Website.
- Outline of Class/Year Rep roles
- Clear Comms via the Website/WhatsApp
- Pictures for the Website – Safeguarding – to discuss with Lucy

Fundraising and Events

Rachel Gregson & Claire Carr

- P5 Bake Sale – in playground on Friday
- Pub Quiz on 9th November at The Pleasance, own bar, 8 per team, up to 15 teams
- School shop to be available via the new school website
- eCommerce site will be available soon
- Planning is well underway for the Winter Fair
- Xmas Festival – 2nd December – more details to follow soon
- Xmas Tress for Sale on Website - prices on website
- Halloween Disco P4/5 & P6/7
- School badges for sale - sold on ParentPay
- Uniform sale, school badges will be available
- Ongoing Bake sales
- The devolved responsibility to year groups is working well and will be continued.

Football

Gordon Stove

No Update

Eco Group

No Update

Clubs

Janine Ridley

- Clubs continue to run well
- Most clubs are up and running with the exception of Korean and English as a second language which will start next week if the school is open.
- Running 24 clubs in our program this term including 7 Coached clubs that are run by the Parent Council
- Clubs are down on their numbers, Might be a good idea to do a flyer advertising them and the benefits or sport for your children.
- Easy to sign up for our clubs _ parents to be advised of the process
- Thanks to Lucy for all of her work in setting up the forms for registering students, Grant and Rachel for all the hard work getting the website up and running and LeeAnne for her incredible work in setting up the payment system.
- Afternoon clubs have been cancelled for Parent Teacher Consultations with the exception of Art Buds as it runs outside the school in the Nature Garden.
- Some of these clubs will run online while others may be given space on another day, if practical.
- Looking to start two Creative Art clubs and the possibility of an Arabic Cultural and Language club.
- Looking into the possibility of having a Life Saving club and will update

Fruit Group

Josie Pilcher

- Funds still from last session @ £1000
- 45 Volunteers/ 10 per Friday morning
- Request from parents via ParentPay for donation @ £5 to top up the funds
- Kids loving the fruit platters

Treasurer Report

LeeAnne Boyle

- £31000 in the bank
- Last year's spending plan to be paid and finalised
- Funds allocated to various spends
 - £1000 Fruit group
 - £1400 Ski Centre
 - £8000 Clubs/coaches fees – excess for sports equipment
- £15000 outstanding spend
- £5000 available to spend

School Spending Plan 23/24

- Physical environment improvement
 - Triangle tables
 - High benches
 - Flip top table
 - Pouffes
- School Budget
 - Playground @ £2500
 - Play Therapist @ £15000 (Health & Wellbeing)
- PC Funds
 - £18000 for 3 classrooms (£30000 for 6 classrooms)
 - 3 year plan
 - £30000 for 6 classrooms
 - Attainment in literacy @£2000 (audio books)
 - Additional support for Learning - sensory resources

- Leanne – Grass for Playground - £2890 spent , £5110 cost, £2500 shortfall. - quotes @£14500- £16000, Sharon will check with partners for help with funding
- Votes on Spending Plan
 - Spend for school @ £20000
 - 12 votes YES – Approved
 - Extra for grass @£2500
 - 10 votes YES – Approved
- Rolling items to be refocused and discussed at a later meeting

Succession Planning / Vacant Roles

- Leda resigning from Vice Chair role at end of session , New Vice-Chair required
- New Vice Chair to work with Caroline for 1 year before Caroline resigns from the role of Chair at the end of session 23/24, Vice- Chair to take over role of Chair when Caroline leaves.
- FFS – Fundraising person required, could be a current member of the Sciennes PC Fundraising group.
- Football Group Treasurer

Caroline closed the meeting at 8.35pm with Thanks to everyone who attended.

Next Meeting date TBC