

Sciennes PS Parent Council Meeting

Thursday 18th September 2025 @ 7pm

In school

Voting attendees:

Emma Moulds, Chair
Becky Carter, Vice-Chair
Lena Lorenz, comms group
Claire Carr, Fundraising & Events Co-Convenor
Chris Carter, Co -Treasurer
Claudia Steadman, P1/2 Rep
Belinda McGhie, P2 Rep
Susie Braham, P3 Rep & Food Intolerances Group
Patricio Troncoso, P4 Rep
Chigdem Arslan , P5 Rep & ASN Rep
Christine Knox, P7 Co- Rep & Digital Devices Group
Rebecca-Jo Rushdy, P7 Co-Rep & Digital Devices Group
Helen Holroyd, Fruit Group
Jim Sorrell, Football Club Chairman

Non-voting attendees:

Sharon McGhee, HeadTeacher
Lucy Gallagher, DHT
Amanda Vardy, clerk
Diana Rapan
Ondine Oberlin
Monica Park
Ruth Quinn
Aine Emersleben
Bahie Guo

Welcome

Welcome to everyone from the new Chair of the PC, Emma Moulds, with a brief overview of the meeting agenda.

Apologies

Janine Ridley, Clubs Convenor
Lena Lorenz, Comms Group
Sean McGivern, Treasurer

Previous Minutes

Approved, no amendments.

Headteacher Update

Sharon McGhee

- School Improvement Update
 - Equalities as a focus
 - Anti-Racism curriculum
 - Lots of groups working along with the school
 - Developing policies
 - Bullying & Prejudice
 - Equalities
 - Literacy
 - Numeracy
 - Raising children with Confidence course
- Survey Report
 - 138 Responses to survey in June

- 132 kids like to be in school
 - 136 feel safe
 - 131 confident
 - 127 know the child
 - 120 emotional wellbeing supported
 - 99 hard enough learning
- Library Project
 - Library will be open by January
 - Further £3500 required for soft furnishings for the space
 - Total cost to date @ £60000 approx
 - BookSpace
 - 5000 Books
 - Reading is school priority.
 - PC to see the Library refurbishment
 - Library to be complete by start of next session
 - Book donations gratefully accepted
- Sciences safer streets – we need more volunteers to be on the road at the start and the end of each day. If you can volunteer email admin@sciennes.edin.sch.uk

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

Treasurer Report

Chris Carter

- £33,424.68 current bank balance
- Finance in place to cover the Library Project costs @ £45000
- PC Spending plan will be shared on the PC website
- Spending plan requests today
 - Headphones @ £1500 – Approved
 - Soft Furnishings for library @ £3500 – Approved
- Full New Spending plan for 25/26 session to be agreed and confirmed by November
- Query should Fruit group payments and Photos be processed through the website going forward?
 - Photos to remain on ParentPay
 - Fruit Group to be added to Website ecommerce & to remain on ParentPay to attract a wider audience
- Please send all invoices to the official treasurers gmail account
- **Sciennesparentcouncil.com**
- sciennesparentcouncil@gmail.com

Group Updates

Playground/Roads Update

NO UPDATE

Comms

Rebecca- Jo Rushdy for Lena Lorenz

- Hub for PC Communication with the school community
- Website
- WhatsApp Community – announcements all in one area
 - Parents can mute notifications
 - Only join the relevant groups
- sciennescomms@gmail.com

Fundraising and Events

Claire Carr

- Save the Date!
 - Halloween Disco – Friday 7th November
 - Winter Fair – Saturday 29th November
 - Christmas Trees – Friday 5th December
 - Parents Quiz Night – Friday 6th February
 - P6/7 Disco – Thursday 26th March
 - Photos – w/c 27th April
 - Summer Fair – Saturday 30th May
- eCommerce site on website
- Year Group Fundraising
 - P1 – T-Towels
 - P2 – Autumn bakesale
 - P3 – Photos
 - P4 – Halloween Disco
 - P5 – Spring Bakesale
 - P6 – Christmas Trees
 - P7 – Yearbook
- Winter Fair
 - P1 – Bake sale
 - P2 – Toys
 - P3 – Gifts
 - P4 – Glitter Tattoos
 - P5 – Catering Hall
 - P6 – Chocolate fountain
 - P7 – Raffle
- P7 Yearbook
 - Christine Knox leading
 - Format in place from previous years
 - Meeting whilst kids are at Lagganlia – date TBC
- Succession planning – new Fundraising convenor required by the end of the session as Claire and Rachel will be leaving – anyone interested contact the team via the email.
- Fundraising group will set up a channel on the WhatsApp community Hub
- sciennesfundraiser@gmail.com

Football

Jim Sorrell

- Well attended club
- Matches against other schools start this weekend
- ParentPay now active for sign up and payment
- Numbers to be confirmed for this session
- Each year group has a Rep who meet periodically, 1st meeting last night
- P6/7 cup tournaments at the end of the year
- Sciennes Spring Cup in May (girls football)

Eco Group

NO UPDATE

Clubs

Rebecca-Jo Rushdy for Janine Ridley

- 130 kids at clubs this session so far
- Korean club for P4 -7
- Seeking a Netball coach
- Challenges with club sign ups
 - Missed registrations / forms
 - Missed payments

- Compliance risks
- Updated Clubs Website
 - Dynamic club pages with embedded forms
 - Mandatory checkbox at checkout
 - Time saver
 - Ensures compliance

Fruit Group

Helen Holroyd

- Call for cash donations via ParentPay
 - £9.24 per child per year
 - Approx. £4000 per year for the whole school
- Platter of fruit to every class every Friday morning
- Volunteers assemble platters

ASN

Chigdem Arslan

- WhatsApp Group set up
- 34 members of the group
- GIFREC coffee mornings held
- Therapet Team
 - Dogs for Anxiety
 - Will attend regularly when the new Library is open next session

Digital Devices

Christine Knox/Rebecca-Jo Rushdy

- Inclusive school policy
 - Switched off during the day
 - Devices in locked box
 - Only switch devices on outside school grounds
- Events planned
 - Speakers to attend events
 - May require funding from the PC
- Encourage screen free play
- Balance between school and home use of devices
- Workshops planned
- Digital skills for the future
- Physical and mental effects on children
- Empower children to use devices effectively and safely
- School will enforce the Digital Policy
- CEC – Smart Phone free Policy

Allergy Awareness

Susie Braham

- WhatsApp Group
- Details on PC website
- Assemblies on Allergy Awareness
- School milk has a Soya Milk option now via ParentPay
- Susie to join events group to encourage inclusivity during planning of school events
- Lots of resources available via Allergy charities
 - Some of the resources will be implemented in school next term
 - Could Adrenalin be made available in school? – ongoing
 - CEC existing suppliers/policies/guidelines to be looked into

- Ms McGhee gathering information re EPI PENS in school
- ?funding
- All with joint consultation with the CEC
- Balance the views of multi factor groups – parents/children/council/NHS
- School meal options

AOCB

- P7 party
 - Decorations and lights for the party to be updated
- Music tuition
 - Violin/flute by IMS from P4
 - Music taught by class teachers
 - School has a variety of musical instruments

Succession Planning / Vacant Roles.

- FFS – Fundraising person required could be a current member of the Sciennes PC Fundraising group.
- Football Group Treasurer
- PC Clerk at the end of the session
- Fundraising convenor

sciennesparentcouncil@gmail.com

The meeting ended at 8.30pm with Thanks to everyone who attended and encouraged everyone to join the meetings again and get involved with the PC activities throughout the year.

Next Meeting date Thursday 13th November @ 7pm via MS Teams