



Parent Council – Minutes

Date: Thursday 17th November 2022

Time: 6.00 – 7.00pm

Venue: Thomas Muir Primary School, Base 9

Apologies – Peter Tracy, Ana Trindade, Eman Jihani, Allison Lunan, Ben Rose (councillor)

Present – H Young (HT), M McAllister (DHT), M Jones (ADHT)

Parents – Marie Claire Cairns, Caroline Clucas, Ryan McAllister, Kirsty McEwan, Laura McDonald, Paul Lassalle, Linda Lumsden, Susan Lunan, Janine Wodzynska, Emma White, Darren Nichol, Alan Moir (councillor), Gordon Low(councillor)

Minutes:

Item	Decision/Discussion	Discussion/Action
1	Welcome/Apologies	
2	School Uniform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement in adherence to school uniform guidelines noted, more appropriate clothing choices on gym days. Pre-loved school uniform exchange now in place – continue to encourage parents to make use of this without stigma, contacting the school directly if more discreet. Encourage promotion of this and working with local clothing banks.
3	Reading surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% of parents gave feedback. Cost and availability of lending highlighted as main issues. Parents evening book drop successful – kids already making use. PEF funding use to buy bags for P1 and 2 – 90 different themed bags inc. fiction and non-fiction, a game and other activities. Come read with me event noted as very successful – lots of positive feedback. Kids very excited! Celebrating book week also noted as popular with parents, despite common concern about potential expense.
4	School Clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Now able to offer extra-curricular clubs following end of lockdown, both during the school day and after hours.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multiple clubs listed with a mixture of staff and parents running them.• External partners also resuming activities – football, rugby, etc. – some within PE program.• Noted that after school clubs can be difficult for kids that use bus service, so ensuring a good proportion of clubs are held at lunchtime. Noted that communication for latter may need to be developed as not usually covered with a specific take home letter.• Noted that targeted year groups column has been left open for discussion to ensure a fair distribution across all ages.
2	VIP/Biscuit and a Blether discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Started mid academic year last year so not possible to cover all children. In year 2, all children should be covered.• Emphasis on attendance and meeting the school charter, whilst still being inclusive of children with additional needs.• Staff discussed how to make sure those that hadn't yet received award were covered early on, if a teacher is off sick, for example.• Pupil feedback overwhelmingly positive – ask parents next via online feedback form.• Noted that some teachers run additional positive feedback schemes such as "star speller of the week", etc. VIP is not the only scheme.
3	Food wastage in dining hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion around disposal of excess food (that has not been served) in cafeteria.• Noted that catering team are managed by an external organisation.• Lunch ordering system is in place to minimise waste.• Leftovers offered to final siting, upper school.• Sandwiches, fruit, etc can be kept for following day.• Suggestion of sending food home to families is most likely not possible – food hygiene concerns, prioritisation, packaging, reheating, etc. Questions welcomed to feed back to catering team?• As an aside, several parents noted that shortage of time to eat is leading to waste of served food (and indeed packed lunches). Staff will review.
4	Relationships, Sexual Health, and Parenthood Education (RSHPE) parent consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New curriculum replaces SHRE.• Content and timing under review.• Community policemen to run online safety sessions in January with kids and parents (separate sessions) – social media, popular culture, etc. Invite parents to raise concerns in advance to be included in content.• Discussed validity of homework so that topics can be covered at home prior to teacher discussing it - optional.



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noted that sensitivity to religious beliefs is required. Families can opt out of the relationship focussed lesson whilst not missing the biological elements.
	Parking – Safe travel to school discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noted situation with parents parking on single yellow lines at both school gates is ongoing.• Very little improvement despite recent communication.• General observation about repeat offenders.• Also, very concerning abusive treatment of St Dominic's caretaker – such as might jeopardise the arrangement to use their car park.• Dangerous parking and driving have been reported to police – next communication will include advice to parents to do the same.• Many suggestions discussed but with no clear solution identified.• Noted that this topic is consistently part of the agenda – much ongoing concern about the safety of our families.
8	AOB	N/A
9	Date of Next Meeting	Thursday 9 th February 2023