

Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 22nd November 2023

7pm Upper Library

Present: Sally Mcneish, Mark Summers, Paul Barber, Kate Shiner, Thorfinn Johnston, Olivia MacPherson, Avril Hay, Kate Brown.

Apologies: Kerry Spence, Caz Lourie, Denis Dounaev, Lian Brown.

Adoption of previous minutes: proposed SM, seconded by KSh.

Fereday Group Update: SM reported that Shona Garson is going to set up a group to assess the projects and welcomes parental involvement.

Phones in classrooms: AH attended the meeting to raise issue of pupils being allowed phones in classrooms; policy seems to differ between different teachers.

General discussion re phones raised issues such as:

1. Bullying and safeguarding
2. Many parents want their children to have phones outside class eg. Travel safety and to pay for lunches.
3. Parents contacting children in class time.
4. Parents needing to be responsible for their children's phone use.
5. Teachers removing phones from pupils causes conflict.
6. Phones should not be used as calculators as this will not be allowed for exams.
7. Phones are sometimes authorised for use by teachers for classwork – this must be equitable for children who don't have mobiles.

OM reported that guidance team are looking at strategies to discourage phone use. They have teaching about online safety etc with good resources.

PB provided copies of Behaviour Management Policy which has specific guidance for teachers about mobile phone use in class. The council agreed the policy is fair but that children of different age groups may require different levels of regulation. Teachers should be encouraged to enforce the policy, with discretion for specific purposes in class.

PB – will raise at staff meeting next week, get phone policy drafted separately. Reinforce with pupil council and parents, inviting feedback via form or quizzes. Use Parent Council to share so as to be accessible. Highlight exceptions.

SM – research a way to survey parents. Ask office staff and Denis for advice.

Swiss Trip prize draw: SM approached by pupil to see if council can put name on prize draw tickets as the school has no gambling licence. School cannot put name or logo on tickets but council can. Will need a name and address, have to pay in advance to get tickets printed. No one under 16 can sell tickets. Council has to promote and pass money to the pupils organising.

The council agreed to these conditions.

SM will proceed with this.

HT report: Separate document.

S1 Parents Evening: 4.30-6.30pm 6th December. This is the same night as Into The Woods but in different locations and hopefully separate times.

Baking has been organised. Volunteers required to help – (SM might not make set-up)

From 4pm to set-up – TJ, possibly KSh.

SM to ask on Whatsapp for volunteers

PC admin - shared location: Waiting to discuss with Denis.

KB to discuss with Denis via SM

Fundraising next year: Usual fundraising from January to June. SM asked if council is in position to organise large fundraiser, and is it needed as some funds still remaining?

If fundraising, should it be just one large event? Just before Easter?

Lacking people to drive it forward – PB suggested a request to parents to get involved.

SM liaise with CL about what funds are pledged or available before more decisions made about another round of funding bids.

Revisit in January.

AOB: Discussion about parent council members and volunteers. AH stated that she is happy to attend another council meeting.

PB advised that Mary Dunn is stepping down, Helen Murray will attend meetings in turn with OM

Time and date of next meeting: January, not before course choice evening (council not involved in catering this year)

SM will put out Whatsapp poll to organise date