

Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Monday 22nd January 2024

7pm English Classroom

Present: Sally McNeish, Helen Murray, Dennis Dounaev, Mark Summers, Kate Shiner, Graeme Paterson, Paul Barber, Thorfinn Johnston, Kate Brown.

Apologies: Avril Hay, Caz Lourie

Adoption of previous minutes: Proposed by SM, seconded by MS

Swiss Trip Prize Draw Update: Parent Council has paid £148 to have tickets printed, SMs personal details are on them. Tickets will be sold in school from now. Money will be repaid to the council, unless we decide to donate it to the Swiss Trip (see discussion under fundraising below).

Mobile Phone Survey Update: SM emailed Graham Horne (Business manager) re Survey Monkey as an option for surveying parents.

GP has experience using Survey Monkey.

There was further discussion about the difficulties faced in making decisions about the use of mobile phones, and how to enforce policy. PB has feedback from staff and has one more staff session planned to discuss this.

PB also acknowledges the political aspect and the need to discuss further action with OIC.

PB will clarify staff opinions to know how to move forward, and what to ask the parent body.

SM will liaise with GP to set up Survey Monkey when they get info from PB.

Leaver's Hoodies: Parent Council hopes to contribute towards next year's hoodies (would be current S5s for next August). Hoodies are organised by pupils without staff input.

SM and KSh to find out who in S5 is organising and how much the Parent Council can contribute.

Fundraising Spreadsheet: SM has up to date spreadsheet re what is pledged to various departments, but some departments have not invoiced Parent Council, even when items have been purchased.

PB has passed invoices to teacher for £1000 for visualisers.

Camera lenses not yet bought; Olivia MacPherson is organising this.

SM will send excel version to Denis to upload to OneDrive

PB will chase invoices within school

Current balance £9118.90

Pledged £3468

Available balance £5650.90 (trying to keep £2000/3000 cushion in Parent Council account)

Next term the Parent Council could send an invitation round staff to bid for additional funding. Or staff could send bids in this term but they won't be decided by the Parent Council until current invoices are submitted and paid.

Swiss Trip funding options: Parent Council can choose not to contribute, can contribute the £148 paid for tickets, or can add additional funding.

Previously funding had a cap of £50 per person, per trip.

Swiss Trip has taken place in previous years as Geography trip but not supported by Parent Council. This year it is S4 and S5 current pupils, 42 pupils expected to go – broad range of curriculum links, not one specific subject.

PB brought up Hoy trip S2. 3 day trip costs £160-180 per child. Expecting approx 65 pupils out of 72 to attend. School has funding from Pupil Equity Fund for those on free school meals but there will be others for whom it will be

financially difficult. Take up of financial support among the latter is difficult – how do we approach those families? Community Councils can also contribute.

If Parent Council supports Hoy trip does it become a commitment/expectation to do it every year? The best way to support the trip may be to give a capped amount to the school to pay for an aspect of the trip which lowers cost for everyone.

SM suggests prioritising Hoy trip over Swiss trip as Hoy benefits a whole year group (including those who don't go to Hoy and do home activities).

Annual financial commitment? SM not sure if there is established financial history yet (as current balance was largely inherited, not raised this year)

Council agreed to write off the £148 ticket cost as contribution to the Swiss Trip.

SM will speak with Emily Frier and let her know re Swiss Trip.

Council will revisit costings for Hoy at future meeting.

PB will check costs for Hoy and share with council asap (to look at a one-off payment rather than annual commitment) possibly £1000ish to cover accommodation.

HT report: Separate document.

Fundraising Plans for the year: Caz Lourie is Fundraising Coordinator as well as Treasurer and the Council is missing her input. SM wants to know how the Council feels about fundraising this year. Last year the Council raised £1713.35. Is the main purpose of an event to fundraise or to raise the Parent Council profile?

MS suggests having a fund that any parent can apply for, to reduce stigma, but issues remain about costs etc.

There is no one, traditional fundraising model. Previous events include Mock Wedding (Giddy Limit) and a Christmas Fayre.

An option is to generate ideas and then consult parents. Does the Council have the man-power to put on an event?

Ideas –

- Event at golf club with music and a bar (like primary school leavers)
- Race night (council has gambling licence)
- Bingo (with good food)
- Beetle drive
- Families and teachers band comp, Eurovision-style voting, pupil voting panel.
- Curry and quiz
- Ceilidh
- Bottle stalls
- Music double-bill
- School disco, themed

PB suggests polling parent council with choice of 5 events.

SM will poll event suggestions over Parent Council Whatsapp.

AOB: 8th and 14th February are Parents Nights (S3 and Senior Phase). Parent Council will attend with their usual stall.

TJ reports a parent was unhappy with the activities happening in school during snow days as children not attending school may be missing out. PB explains that normal education can't continue with such low attendance and when staffing is reduced. Different activities were organised hastily during this last period of snow. PB is organising future contingency plans for education to continue.

Time and date of next meeting: Once fundraising event decided, the Council can have a planning meeting without school staff.

Full meeting will be required this term to discuss a Leaver's event. The meeting will probably be soon after Easter.

PB will discuss with SM.

