

Parent Council Meeting Minutes – 7th June 2022 Meeting

Attendees:

Lee Picken (Chair), Gillian Smith, Serena Broadway, Leanne Gordon, Naomi Barton, Dani Dinwoodie, Sonia Rutherford, Dee McIntosh, Alexa Pope (Head Teacher), Ingrid Donaldson (Deputy Head), Poilin Glacken, Guest Parent (Sasha) representing Bike Bus

Apologies:

Vasiliki Pothitou, Sarah Crole, Catherine Salmond, Mhari Hargreaves, Vikki Sanderson, Neil Rudram (Treasurer)

TOPIC	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS	ACTIONS
Bike Bus	(Sasha) was asked by a parent with children in the school to come to the Parent Council meeting tonight and share some information on the “Bike Bus” initiative. - These initiatives are very popular in Europe - Perfect for children who live further away from school - Promotes active cycle routes in the local area - Children enjoy it because they get to cycle safely with friends - Parents feel more confident in cycling with their children - Routes used are marshalled by experienced cyclists who have carried out risk assessments on junctions etc - Promotes safer routes to school and active travel Proposal for JGPS would be to: - Start with a route from Dovecot Park, Lanark Road, turning into Baberton Crescent and ending to JGPS - This route has been risk assessed. Marshalls would come in to support the cyclists from across Edinburgh from organisations like Critical Mass, Blackford Safe Routes and SW20 who have experience. - Initially monthly or twice per month on a Friday - Every child will initially have to come with an adult Questions from Parent Council 1. Will you follow the same route every time? Getting through Gillespie Crossroads will be difficult as it’s so busy with car traffic.	• AP to circulate bike bus slides with PC • AP to donate hi-vis jackets to bike bus • SWAY to be issued to parents re bike bus

	2. The right turn is risky and not something I would cycle myself. Are you confident this is safe? Also how do you propose children would get home from school? (Sasha) - Once the initial route is established we would look at alternative routes to school, in particular a route from Baberton to school and perhaps from Currie. All participants in the bike bus would hopefully wear hi-vis jackets and we have found that drivers are actually very considerate when they see the train of children. The hope is that this exercise would help to normalise cyclists going along this route to help drivers anticipate and support this. The community would eventually get used to it. We are purposely trying a Friday to help with parent's availability. We would suggest a cycle route back home via the Water of Leith. (Alexa) - From August all children will be leaving on a Friday at 12pm so this will help with the route home. Unfortunately, however, we haven't been able to get children through the bikeability course again this year. We haven't had the support from the Council. It would be great if the bike bus and bikeability could marry up some how. Perhaps we could bring this together with other schools in the cluster group? (Sasha) - The bike bus initiative have supported bikeability courses in the past and could definitely look to support the school with this. 3. When communicating this proposal to school community, I think it would help if you attached a video of how this has worked in practice elsewhere in Edinburgh. This would help children and parents engagement. 4. Can you keep all communications wide / bigger i.e. every time, state that even though it's not in your area now, it will be coming soon. Or ask for feedback on which routes parents would like to see this next? 5. Could we put some information into a SWAY for parents i.e. videos, photos, instructions, etc. (Alexa) - Confirmed that the bike sheds would be able to cope with the numbers expected i.e. up to 25. Alexa also asked that it is made clear that helmets must be worn. 6. Could there be a family cycle event to bring families together again and promote this? 7. Could the bike bus somehow be tied into badges for Beavers etc? 8. Could the bike bus be tied into some kind of certificate around sustainability or getting to know the local area? Sasha thanked the parent council for all of the questions, suggestions and information.	
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Key Actions from last meeting	• Class reps have already circulated a link to the facebook thrift shop, if you haven't please do so. • CCWP meeting was cancelled so roll forward Naomi's action to request output from census.	• Class reps to put reminder ASAP • NB action to roll forward
Head Teachers Report	• Most of the year stages have now held their parents afternoon - where parents get to come into the classrooms and visit for the day. It was lovely to see parents back in the school and to see it so well attended. Children have loved it too and the staff have received so much positive feedback. • Sports day prep is very much underway. Teas, coffees and muffins will be available in the canteen for parents. P5 are taking over the pre loved clothes stall that will also be available in the canteen. • Moving forward, every year group will have a leadership role. P6s next year will be leaders of sustainability, P5s leaders of diversity and equality etc. We want to be bringing leadership in from nursery right to p7. • Golf - we had 30 kids attending lessons in a partnership arrangement with Kingsknowe golf club. Ingrid's husband donated some money to get 4 or 5 hours of lessons for some of the nearby schools. The kids had a great time and this has created a new community partnership with Kingsknowe Golf Club. • Staffing is sorted for next academic year. The school have been allocated 2 NQT (newly qualified teachers) for next year as usual. Unfortunately, this means the 2 NQT's from this year will be moving on. Miss Donaldson will be leaving us as she is changing career and moving to London. Mrs Rankin will also be going off on maternity leave. Miss Harper will be returning to us next year which is great news, but this unfortunately means Miss Simpson will also need to leave us. Mr Paul / Mrs McWhirter have been jointly acting as deputy head teachers for upper school since the role became vacant. This will end in June. The team will be restructured for the next academic year. • Interviews will be carried out around 23rd June for PSA's for next year. • Transition slides will be sent out to every year stage this week to help new teachers get to know the children they will be teaching. The children will get to meet their new teacher before the end of term. It may be in class or in the playground as this worked well last year. • Alexa shared with us that the school are looking to be accredited as a bronze rights respecting school next year. There are lots of symbols dotted around the school with information relating to this and on global goals. Once we have achieved bronze status we will be looking towards getting silver. This will all be shared with parents in August. • A lot of work is being done and will be done on looking at equality and diversity in school. One of the areas to look at is the parent council - what are the barriers to joining the parent council and how can we improve diversity?	

	• The new iPads are going really well. P7 are working hard on their end of year show and have their S1 transition next week. An end of year assembly will be held for the whole school to say goodbye to our P7s. • Each class has now completed their annual assessments. Children were all tested on their return to school after covid and these end of year assessments are to see whether interventions and our new Support for Learning regime is making a difference. They have assessed reading, spelling and maths. Reading tests were carried out online for P4-7 for the first time. Results were available immediately. Spelling tests are marked in house by teaching staff. Maths tests are sent off for standardised marking. These won't be returned until after August. These tests should not be confused with the SNSA's carried out at the end of P1, P4 and P7. • End of year reports will be a simple 1 page document on reading, writing, listening, talking, maths, PE. Questions: 1. can parents ask for the results of the standardised tests? (Alexa) yes, but may be best to wait until the maths test results are in. 2. can parents / children give feedback on HWB / RSHP and how this is being delivered as part of the curriculum? (Alexa) - please direct any feedback to me. It is appreciated that, due to covid, some classes have had a lot of information on RSHP thrown at them this year. It is also appreciated that communication around RSHP should have been better. This has been taken on board and will be actioned next year. Nursery Update: • Nursery transition to P1 is well underway and the kids are really enjoying it, in particular they are loving being in the canteen. This is something the nursery would like to keep going next year, perhaps once a week. • P1 parents evening next Wednesday and parents will get to find out the class their child will be in and their teacher. Classes are made up based on nursery staff feedback. • Lots of end of term events coming up including graduation and sports day. • 47 children will be leaving nursery and moving onto P1 (42 coming to JG). 17 children are returning to the nursery next year. Nursery spaces have now been offered out to incoming children and it looks like we will be pretty much full come August. • We aren't really able to get back to doing home visits again with incoming children to the nursery. Instead we are offering a nursery garden visit for each of the children.	
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	Nursery stay and play days went really well so we are looking at how we could do this more regularly and to find out what would work for parents that couldn't make it. Questions: 3. All of the year end events for nursery seem to be on a Thursday. Is it possible to have this spread across the days of the week a bit more next time? (Ingrid) - Yes, we will review this for next year. 4. Are there any major staffing changes happening in the nursery for next year? (Ingrid) - Not really. Susan Huxley is taking a few months off and will return in January. We have also recruited a new early years assistant.	
Health & Wellbeing Census	- Sonia and Lee met with Alison Humphries - a council member of staff who has been appointed the task of investigating our complaint. Alison is not affected directly in her role by our complaint and is, therefore, seen as "external". However, Alison is essentially investigating her senior managers and so will have to check the process for this. - Alison has been extremely supportive, helpful and sympathetic thus far and Sonia has shared a lot of information gathered to support our complaint including a timeline of events. - Essentially this is now a stage 2 level complaint and we should have been notified of that within 5 days of submission. However, the council took 10 days to tell us that. Our complaint should have been handled and responded to by now but investigations are really just starting. - Alison is meeting with their compliance team next week. - We are giving them 20 working days to resolve the complaint (which is extremely lenient on our part). We need an answer by 23rd of June though and that is the deadline we have shared with Alison. - If our complaint is not upheld, the next stage would be to go to the ombudsman. - We were very clear that the complaint was with the Council and not with our school as they handled this the best they could.	
After School Care Provision	- Interviews are taking place next week and NECL are still hopeful they will be fully staffed by August. - We are trying to advertise through the school and a C&B article was written with the help of Sonia and Lee - NECL are considering offering discounted childcare for staff that apply as an incentive Treehouse Funds - Alexa raised the issue that we still have not spent or had access to the Treehouse funds of around £36k	Action for next Meeting - Sara to Be contacted by New PC chair and Review of contract To be completed

	• Agreement was to spend money jointly with afterschool club specifically on things that would benefit the children in after school club care. • Proposal to request that some of the money be ring-fenced to maintain playground equipment for the next few years, given this is a hefty cost that the school and parent council currently bear. The after school club children have access to this and use it frequently. • Other suggestions were for the school to purchase a class worth of bikes / scooters and erect a shed for storage. These could be used by the after school club children. • Some concern was noted that the money may be frittered away or handed over to NECL after a certain time period if we don't spend it on something soon and preferably on something sustainable. The wording on the contract should be reviewed and we believe Sara Pellegrini may have a copy of this.	
Class Rep Questions	Please can another notice be sent out to parents to stop children scooting / biking in the playground or astro? A little girl was badly hurt last week. • (Alexa) I will put a notice out in the newsletter. We are considering whether we should close the gate on the astro again from August. We may also consider putting signs up on the bike shed to remind children not to use their vehicles on school grounds. Will there be class parties at the end of term or class photos? • (Alexa) No class parties, they don't usually happen except for P7. There have been discos in the past. Perhaps this could be considered for Halloween? Or a film night? • (Alexa) No plans for class photos officially but Claire Martin (a parent in the school) has offered to take photos of the P5s. We could potentially ask her to do a photo of other year stages - especially those being reshuffled. Will the do p1 photos next year and do a retrospective photo for year stages missed? • (Alexa) I could ask my contact at the Evening News.	• AP to put notice out to parents reminding them that scooters / bikes not allowed to be ridden in school • AP to consider additional measures to deter this behaviour • Action for next year fundraising committee to consider a Halloween disco / film night • AP to see whether class photos could be taken for other year stages • AP to contact EEN and see whether P1 photos / retrospective photos will be taken
Fundraising Update	• Between meeting requests for: a. P1 Bookbags - Agreed and Neil has written the cheque b. Soft drinks and wine for P1 parents evening - agreed	

	c. P7 gift - ties - Agreed as a trial this year but get feedback from kids on whether this is useful • Pre loved clothes stall donations have been coming in. The clothes will be organised and put out at Sports Day and on the P1 parents evening.	
CCHS Update	• NB attended a meeting with Crawford (from Council) on Thursday last week. Currently the new build is between contractors. Crawford is assuring us not to panic and that the build will get back on track soon. Building work should, however, have started last month. • New 3G pitch was opened last week but over the weekend it was vandalised. CCTV cameras have now to be installed before reopening.	
AOB	Why are the children going on their P3 trip to the Water of Leith by coach and not on the 44? • (Alexa) At the time of organisation this wasn't an option If we don't have good technology to host hybrid meeting or else they don't really work. Others in the PC agreed that having meetings in person encouraged us to come out. If it was a hybrid, most people would stay at home. (Leanne) suggested having alternative meetings in house and then virtual rather than attempt hybrid meetings. This was well received by the PC members.	Action to consider alternating meetings between in house and virtual from month to month next year. Roll forward for next chair.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The AGM date has not yet been set. It will likely be early September 2022