

Ormiston Parent Council

Meeting

18th Feb 2021

Meeting held on zoom @ 8pm

Attendees:

Chair - Phil Bancroft

Head Teacher - Helen Gardyne

Treasurer - Ian Flory (Flo)

Class Teacher - Kirsty Dunn

Secretary - Caroline Gray

Zoe Baird, Ed Baird, Michaela Malone, Elizabeth

Councilors: Shamim Ahktar

Apologies: Marianne Sellar, Garret Brady

Finances update:

£182 raised by the Christmas Quiz

£645 raised by the Ding Dong Raffle

Helen congratulated the council on the success of the Christmas fundraisers and the organisation of the DingDong event, which was welcomed greatly by families in such difficult time of winter when we couldn't socialise together.

Ed and Zoe review of the Quiz:

Ed notes that the quiz was supported mainly by local people and the NHS group through Zoe's work. It would be good to focus on how we grow the quiz audience as it develops. It is believed there is a core of about 35 Ormiston based families who are the main supporters of the parent council.

All agree that the priority will be to reach out to more families linked with the school in Ormiston for the main parent council support but an ambition to reach much further afield for a quiz audience.

Head Teacher update:

Helen shared that the first minister has given the go-ahead for nursery to Primary 3 children to return as of Monday 22nd February. Plans are being put together for that which will be mainly in line with how things were running in December.

As of this week, school staff now have access to take part in Lateral Flow testing should they wish to.

The school has been selected by Education Scotland to provide examples of how they have managed home learning during the second lockdown. This will only involve a call with Helen.

The lighthouse leadership program, which the school had its pre-review for in February 2020, is now expected to have a virtual assessment in May. This is very exciting as a long awaited step for the school. The school has already established a staff lighthouse team and a pupil lighthouse team and Helen would welcome us as the parent council to be the parent lighthouse team. When the virtual assessment happens in May some parents may be asked to be involved in the assessment.

The school has also taken delivery of new chairs, which is of great excitement to the whole school community who take delight in saying good bye to their old very squeaky chairs.

Helen has been in conversation with Wendy Hardy in regard to potential progress in the development of an After-school Club in Ormiston but the process is on going. She has directed her to Marianne Sellar and Garret Brady. Further update in due course.

Helen gave updates as to the progress of the school build project and answered parent questions.

Parent council members feedback of lockdown learning

All members of the parent council shared gratitude of the efforts the teachers have been making, especially juggling so much more this time with the Hubs. It was noted that the learning felt structured and that parents felt their children were responding well to this and had settled into the routines well. Regular scheduled class meets and tasks are appreciated by children, who are getting the opportunity to engage with their teacher and classmates frequently.

Helen appreciated hearing everyone's feedback.

Parent council organisation dynamics

Zoe and Ed propose a more structured table of regular and consistent events that the parent council and community can become familiar with and plan for.

Phil has reservations about this plan, with the fear that it puts people on the council under too much pressure and takes away from the more organic and flexible nature where people are able to take the balance of their life at the time before committing heavily.

Flo understands Phil's concerns but likes the structure of a plan and is more in favour.

Michaela proposes a plan, which takes into consideration the work and planning time required for each task to help prioritise what is achievable.

Caroline agrees that there is a fear about committing to too much and it becoming overwhelming but that actually a plan gives people more notice to arrange the commitments in their life and be clear about any tasks they simply couldn't take on. Providing we keep an understanding ethos that any of us can back out, without judgment, when life is meaning our plates are over-flowing.

Everyone agrees to hold another meeting in two weeks time to discuss the forward nature of how the parent council is going to organise and communicate after a quickly growing and changing phase the council has seen in the past year.

Caroline agrees to organise the Easter Sweet jar
Ed and Zoe will take the lead on the Easter Quiz

Aim to hold the Gin tasting event before the school Easter break starts on Friday 2nd April.

Next meeting date:

Thursday 4th March 8pm