



PINKIE PARENTS MEETING

Pinkie St Peters School

Monday, 14th November 2016

Present: Kirsty Sivell (Clerk) Susan Harkins (Chair Person) Suzanne Douglas (Vice Chair Person) Louise Scott, Deborah Forsyth, Clare Morley (Treasurer), Wendy Barber, Councillor Stuart Currie, Morgan Scott, Suzanne Gunn, Gail MacAulay, Shirley Bailey

Staff in Attendance: Sarah Ogden (Head Teacher) Helen Gordon (Deputy Head Teacher) Hazel Rae (Deputy Head Teacher)

Minutes taken by - Kirsty Sivell

1.0 Welcome & Apologies

SH welcomed all to the meeting

2.0 Previous Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting on 6th October were approved

3.0 Visit from Val McIntyre (Principle Officer from ELC)

Val McIntyre from East Lothian Council came to discuss the role of the parent council and the role of the office bearers;

- The legislation came out 10 years ago where school boards were changed to parent councils.
- Val has reviewed our objectives and agrees that our aims and objectives are in line with the council policy.
- Val gave some guidance on the running of the parent council to ensure the meetings are effective and talked about good practices and housekeeping.
- Val advised that the HT report should be circulated a few days before the parent council meeting to allow parents to read the update and prepare any questions in advanced.
- The HT is an advisor to the parent council and will keep the parent council informed.
- The parent council agenda should include any updates/information that has been circulated to the parent council i.e. the ELAPCM meetings, the governance review.
- There was a discussion on the volume of updates/information that is being circulated to parent council members; some members felt it was becoming overwhelming. Louise Scott has volunteered to screen the emails and bring anything important to the meetings for discussion.
- Parents should be involved in formulating the school improvement plan working in partnership with the school management team. This should help identify if there are any resources that may require any funds from the parent council. Fundraising events should always include a description of where the money will be spent in school. Class teachers should draft a bid for funding each year to ensure a fair distribution of funds. Some discussion took place about spending funds raised. Val advised that the fundraising should be linked with the annual school improvement plan and the parent council should have a framework to work with. It was agreed that a sub group should be created to link in with the school improvement plan, Suzanne, Wendy & Morgan have volunteered to work on this.
- Some discussion took place around how to promote the work of the parent council, show the wider parent forum how they are being represented and how best to engage and communicate with parents.

4.0 Head Teachers Report

4.1 Recruitment

HT will shortly be recruiting for lunchtime staff and someone to join the office team; these posts are not yet advertised.

4.2 Building Work

HT is waiting for confirmation from the builders to advise if they are starting work prior to Christmas or just after the new year. This all depends on the

lead time for ordering the doors and windows. HT will then be able to decide where the Christmas performances will be held.

4.3 Public Consultation

There is another consultation out at the moment. Val will be in school with David Scott on Thursday between 12pm-5pm for anyone who wishes to be involved with this. This consultation is on a small area of land which is currently in Wallyford and it is proposed that this land will eventually form part of the pinkie catchment. There are plans to build around 30 houses on this site.

4.4 Scottish Governance

HT attended a meeting along with other Head Teachers on governance. The Scottish Government have requested a response from the school and the parent council. This response needs to be submitted by 6th January. SH highlighted some areas of interest around changes to governance and who makes decisions. It is really important that the parent submit a response. SH has asked if anyone from the parent council would be able to attend on 30th November, SH will circulate the date.

4.5 Experimental Data

The Scottish Government have collected some data from schools based on attainment and achievement. This data is due to be published in December at national and local level; these statistics are classified as experimental statistics. This data includes every child in Pinkie Primary School including those on staged assessments. HT stressed that this is not a league table and it cannot be used as a comparison tool with other schools in the area as every school is reporting differently and it is not standardised. Val spoke about this being covered at the last East Lothian Association of Parent Councils meeting where Fiona Robertson (Head of Education) attended. Fiona is concerned about the lack of consistency across Scotland and has asked the Scottish Government to allow schools to include some narrative with the data when it is published to help explain the reporting standards to parents.

4.6 School Development plan

HT has circulated to parents a document outlining some key points from the development plan. HT informed us that a group of parents were consulted on the development plan and were involved in this from the outset. HT is keen to share the plan with parents and promote how parents can impact and help support it.

2.0 Treasurers report

The parent council agreed to fund a number of things at the last meeting. CM has passed cheques to the school for everything that was agreed at the last meeting. HT confirmed that the cameras have been ordered and the stereo system has been purchased.

3.0 Fundraising Update

The Halloween disco was on 3rd November thank you to everyone who helped. The disco raised a small profit of £185.

Date of next meeting: Monday, 27th February 2017