



PINKIE PARENTS MEETING

Pinkie St Peters School

Monday, 18th April 2016

Present: Kirsty Sivell (Clerk) Iain Clark (Chair) Susan Harkins (Depute Chair) Suzanne Johnstone, Morgan Scott, Clare Morley, Cllr Stuart Currie, Shirley Bailey, Louise Scott

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

Guest Speaker - Chris Smith (PODCAST Group)

Apologies: Joanne Friend

Minutes taken by - Kirsty Sivell (Clerk)

1. Welcome & Apologies

IC welcomed all to the meeting and made any apologies.

2. Minutes of meeting of

Previous minutes were approved

3. PODCAST Group

Chris Smith talked in detail about the school podcast group. The PODCAST is a series of programmes, 6 minutes in length which feature what's hot and what's not in school. The children are involved in reporting, recording, interviewing and taking photographs. Chris commented on how professional the children are in doing these jobs. The minister of education visited the school recently and also tweeted that it was an inspirational visit and she was very impressed with the puppets and the podcast group. The group have now been invited to visit Glasgow University to record a programme there and will be researching and preparing for the visit. All Podcasts are posted on the school website for you to view.

4. Matters arising from the previous minute

Police liaison officer - IC has written to the area commander at Haddington for an update and has highlighted the concerns about shift pattern and the size of the area the Officers will be covering. This is currently under review and IC will continue to feedback on this issue.

Parking - IC has written to Alan Stubbs at ELC regarding the new assessment process for traffic regulation orders for schools. The main issue is pinkie school cannot be subject to a traffic regulation order. Alan Stubbs has replied saying he would like to get the views of other groups from the community i.e. school staff, parents, sports clubs, councillors and the area partnership etc. IC will write back to ask the council to prepare a paper on what options are feasible/viable for the school as we need their steer on this. Enforcement for parking still lies with police Scotland but there is no parking wardens employed in Musselburgh to do this.

5. Head Teachers Report

5.1 Communication

HT has taken on board what she has been hearing lately about lack of communication. There are lots of updates posted on the school website, podcasts & letters etc but she is hearing that parents are really looking for a regular update of news that has maybe not been posted on the website. Tony will be producing an update that will be issued to parents. This will start off at once per term to see how it goes. HT says it is important that the update focuses on what is happening next rather than what has happened in the past. Tony will try to get the first issue out this Friday which will include news on staffing and the building work.

5.2 Staffing

Staffing was discussed in detail.

Morag Tickell started just after Easter in the nursery. Karen Purves who was doing the temporary nursery nurse role is now back in her substantive role as school auxiliary and will be doing 14hrs per week in the medical room. Tony & Jacque will cover when Karen is not there.

Mrs Simkins is now retired. She will be visiting the school at some point to say farewell to everyone.

Congratulations to Mrs Burbanks who has had a little boy call Tom.

There will be 14 classes in the new term with three P1 classes.

HT finished a recruitment drive last week which was conducted over 4 nights. Three new teachers have now been appointed, one for the new position, one to cover Mrs Simkins retiring and one for the nursery position.

Mrs Snowdens support for learning teacher is due to go on maternity leave at the end of April. Mrs Rae & Mrs Gordon will now be coordinating support for learning whilst she is off.

Hugh Hogden who was working on supply with the P3 class has been recruited as a science specialist. He is going to set up a science lab in the

school and will teach science from nursery through to P7. He is also trained in outdoor education and will be a huge asset to the school.

2 post graduate students are starting in p5 & P6 next Monday.

5.3 Building Work

The building work is nearly finished on the main building. The second stage warrant is not due to be issued until the middle of May which will be followed by more snagging. HT is hoping that she will get handover before the summer holidays to enable staff to set up the classrooms etc. During the summer holidays they will be creating the new dance studio and replacing the roof and windows in the gym hall. No word on the nursery yet, HT is waiting for a steer on how long this is likely to be so she can plan resource etc.

5.4 Riding of the Marches

Children have been busy designing crests using famous people. The crests will be mounted onto a statue of a horse. Each school has their own horse which has to be decorated in a theme that is associated with Musselburgh (past & present) the horse will be displayed somewhere near the school.

5.5 Pageant

Pinkie has 13 children taking part which is the largest representation from any of the schools. Every class will be doing a topic on the riding of the marches and on 9th & 10th June the school will have an open exhibition for parents and will host another session open to the wider community.

5.6 Reading is braw

6 students from Queen Margaret University will be working with some of the children doing reading with them. They will be trying to engage the children in their reading whilst boosting their enjoyment. The children will be measuring their enjoyment on a scale.

5.7 Nurture room

The tea and toast drop in sessions have proved to be very popular with around 12 parents popping in every week. This is available to all parents on a Wednesday.

5.8 Dates for the diary

Various dates for the diary will be put into the update/newsletter on Friday
- ACTION (HT)

6. Treasurers Report

Current balance is £6102.42. The only recent transaction was a deposit paid to the Ravelston.

As we have such a healthy balance the HT is to confirm which projects/resources the parent council could help fund/contribute to e.g. greenhouses, class cameras etc which have been mentioned at previous meeting - **ACTION (HT)**

The school seem to have procured new football strips (source still unknown) the strips require numbers on the back, Suzanne to get a cost for the strips. This will be good for team morale - **ACTION**

HT has suggested plain t-shirts with the pinkie badge for other events. Need to get a cost for this - **ACTION**

Cash to be set aside - £100 for the new playground, £500 for Benmore & £300-£400 for year books.

Clr Currie mentioned the Musselburgh common good fund. He knows of another school that were successful in gaining funding for classroom cameras. The parent council need to get in touch with Pauline Maciver for an application form - **ACTION**

7. Fundraising Group Update

Children have been doing designs for the bags. SH thinks that the bags should make around £300-£400 from sales.

Marathon 29th May - still to get a quote for a school banner & need to purchase new gazebo - **ACTION**

The Ravelston has been booked for a fundraising music night and the band porkpie have been booked to play. This event is on 10th June and tickets are £10. SH will be putting posters up to promote the event shortly.

Suzanne is ready to start the clothes stall and is looking for more donations. She has sourced a clothes rail and will publicise this in the next update/newsletter. Any donations of school uniform/clothes are welcome please hand in to the school.

School fair date set for 18th June.

8. Musselburgh Area Partnership

Not much to mention other than the police liaison officer issue is on the agenda and the partnership are aware of this - IC is reporting back to the partnership on this.

9. East Lothian Association of Parent Council Meetings (ELAPCM)

Staffing - Fiona Robertson is the new Head of Education.

Supply - supply is still an issue in East Lothian and all probationary teachers are currently being interviewed for the supply list.

Online payment - great success nearly 0.5 million pounds has been paid online to date.

Parent Council Constitution - Parent Councils are now required to advise the councils legal department if they wish to make a change to their constitution to make sure it complies with parental involvement legislation.

Secondary School Provision - Alex McCrorie Depute Chief Executive of ELC attended a meeting at Musselburgh Grammar last Wednesday after an issue was raised about secondary school provision in Musselburgh and the fact that no feedback has been provided to any of the parent councils on what was happening. The Head of Education also attended. Parents wanted to know what the potential options for secondary schools provision are. AM was unable to provide any answers at the meeting and highlighted that a council meeting was being held on Tuesday 26th April where this would be discussed and proposals put forward. IC highlighted that this process has come under a lot of criticism. IC advised that papers should be published at least 7 days in advance of the meeting on 26th and a consultation would follow afterwards. IC would urge anyone to have a look at the papers when they are published.

10. Role of the Parent Council on the inspection process

11. National Improvement Framework

IC will circulate paperwork on this

12. The Education (Scotland) Bill

IC will circulate paperwork on this

13. School Photographs

Some concern from parents about the cost of the school photographs. HT will look at this.

14. Training Events

- Free Internet safety training at Knox Academy on 4th May from 7.00pm-8.30pm
- Fundraising training event at Brunton Hall on 17th May

15.AOB

IC is due to step down as chair person and his last meeting will be 25th May. A discussion took place about purchasing a gift for IC from the parent council funds as a thank you for his contribution. The majority of pinkie parents agreed to this and it was decided that we would ask members for donations and the parent council would make up any shortfall.