

Kelvindale Primary Parent Council



Minutes of Meeting

Date:	Wednesday 22 February 2017 - 1900
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<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.0	Present / Apologies / Welcome	AM
	<p>1.1 Apologies have been received from Tom Willacy, Craig McNally and Angela Geedes and Paul Dyer.</p> <p>1.2 Present: Alisdair Matheson, Jacqueline Burns, Lesley Kennedy, Gillian Roulston, Barbara Matheson and Helen Ntabeni.</p>	
2.0	Items of Business	
	<p>2.1 – 4 Rs update</p> <p>BM advised that phase 2 is underway. Primary 3A and 6B are currently in the new huts. There would be some staff moves but the remainder of the refurbishment programme would be undertaken with only two classes being moved at a time thus keeping the open areas such as the stage for other uses. The boys' toilet in the main building was being renovated at present and although this meant the boys needed to go to the infant block, it was appreciated this would just be for a few weeks. Works to the toilets in the infant building and the girls' toilet in the main building will be undertaken over Easter. The assembly/dining hall would be renovated in Easter to avoid a space being unavailable for pupils although it may be necessary to make interim arrangements for a week or two after the Easter holidays to let works be completed to the internal hall area.</p> <p>[Post meeting note – this will now take place over the summer thus avoiding any inconvenience.]</p> <p>Works were likely to be finished by summer 2017 and then demolition of the existing chalet building would be undertaken during the summer. All present noted that the use of the access via the driveway adjacent to the janitor's flat was much improved to that before even the 4Rs commenced. It is hoped that this will continue after completion of the works.</p> <p>A further update would reach parents next week.</p>	AM/BM
	<p>2.2 – Pitch drainage</p> <p>AM reported that at present confidential discussions were ongoing between the Council and Mactaggart & Mickel for a medium to long term solution. ASM presumed this would be undertaken at the same time as development was underway on the Mactaggart & Mickel site. We should</p>	AM

	<p>of course continue to press the Council to move this forward.</p> <p>Meantime, build-up of fouled sand and algal waste was a real problem in the north west corner of the pitch. AM had been advised that we would need to wait for dry weather before it could be removed. Everyone thought that was unconvincing and ASM was to revert to the Council requiring more interim maintenance.</p>	
	<p>2.3 – New chalet improvements</p> <p>Everyone at the meeting agreed that the new accommodation adjacent to the gym replacing the chalets was deeply unimpressive. The depressing appearance and very small windows were not what was anticipated. It was recalled that the school had been assured a “like for like” replacement for the existing chalet had been promised and AM would look through the minutes to establish exactly what had been assured.</p> <p>[Post meeting note – Andrew Duff of Glasgow City Council assured the Parent Council at the meeting of 11 May 2016 that the new building would have the same facilities as the existing ones. At no point was the radical difference in design highlighted.]</p> <p>Regardless, it was a warm and dry teaching space and would have to be used.</p> <p>All the meeting were agreed that taking steps to decorate the exterior with murals would improve the appearance immeasurably. In principal this would be looked into but there was not a point in undertaking any works until the 4Rs works were themselves complete to avoid damage and to allow those works to be carried out as safely as possible.</p>	AM
3.0	<p>Financial Report</p> <p>Parent Council bank balance stands at £1,362.91 less £24 spent on a small gift for Mrs Darroch from the parent forum in recognition of her hard work over the years.</p>	JB
4.0	<p>PTA report</p> <p>AM read the report he had received</p> <p>'The PTA have recently had election for the following office bearer positions - Vice Chairperson and Treasurer. These posts were successfully filled by Cathy Allan as Vice Chair and David Nicholls as Treasurer. We are delighted to have them on board.</p> <p>Recent fundraising events have been the Fish and Chip Quiz evening for adults. We also had the Christmas Fayre in December. This raised 3202.05, and was a huge success. The PTA would like to thank all the parents, family members, and children (current and past pupils) who helped with the Fayre. Without everyone's support our events would not be the successes they are.</p> <p>Future events are the Spring Disco on Thursday 23rd February for the</p>	AM/PTA member

	<p>upper school pupils. We are also considering a family games afternoon in March and starting to look towards planning the summer event in June. We are always on the lookout for new fundraising ideas. Any ideas can be emailed to the PTA at kelvindalepta@yahoo.com</p> <p>We have recently purchased a reading scheme for the upper school, and are continuing to support the school with the purchase of big book storage units, paper bags for world book day, Cosmic Kid yoga DVDs and a full day Viking Workshop for the P4's.</p> <p>The PTA continues to fundraise for the school to ensure that we can work together to enhance our pupils school experience.</p>	
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Head Teacher's Business</p> <p><u>Equity Funding</u></p> <p>The school was to receive pupil equity funding of £79,200 per annum for 3 years. This was part of a nationwide scheme to provide additional support for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. In Glasgow this has been calculated on the basis of a number of free school meals and while this seems like a lot of money, Kelvindale Primary is definitely the lower end of the scale in respect of that. Head Teachers can use their professional judgement to bring additional children into the targeted interventions.</p> <p>This money is in addition to the devolved budget. The focus is to accelerate targeted improvement in literacy, numeracy and Health and Wellbeing, including family learning.</p> <p>Schools should, with the support of the local authority, partners and colleagues, identify issues and target groups of pupils most in need of additional support based on analysis of local evidence and data.</p> <p>Funding must be used for activities and interventions that support children and young people affected by poverty to reach their potential.</p> <p>The school had been asked to identify three areas where the money would be used within certain academic limits and the funds are to be targeted on those areas. There would be a need to demonstrate that the money had been spent effectively and had ameliorated problems with those areas. Members of the Parent Council noted that the funding was probably of a similar order to that which had been trimmed away from school's budget by a number of learning support assistants and other cost cutting measures.</p> <p>The three areas identified by BM and the rest of the management team, staff and pupils were mindfulness; literacy and play based approach in Primary 1.</p> <p>BM advised "Mindfulness is a way of training the mind to be present. It is a secular meditative practice, which involves paying attention to what is happening as it happens, and doing so with an attitude of kindness, acceptance, and non-judgment. As such, cultivating mindfulness results in greater self-awareness, and enables us to become more joyful, more empathic, and more resilient. We can learn to respond with greater</p>	<p>BM</p>

wisdom and flexibility to difficult emotions and experiences, and learn to live with greater happiness and vitality. CPD for staff, costing providers at the moment –take mindfulness on as a whole school someone to work with specified classes next year.”

Literacy would involve supported study for teachers and the use of additional materials as well providing individuals with targeted support (while of course all children benefit from new resources and approaches).

Other benefits may include books to target boys and reading; a set of Kindles; non-fiction books for Infants and books and resources for class libraries.

The play based approach for Primary 1 would need some resources, support and training for staff.

New Pupil Reports Formats

A new Pupil Report format will be used when reporting to parents in June. This carries more personalised information and explains to parents or carers the individual’s strengths and weaknesses. There would be greater clarity in particular for parents on whether additional support was necessary and if so, what the report from that had been.

Staffing and school roll

BM turned to staffing confirming that we ought to have 17 classes next year. The school role is currently projected to be 479 and the Primary 1 intake can be no more than 66. There are currently 41 pupils from the Kelvindale Primary School catchment area enrolled for P1 next year.

Mrs Milne is returning after Easter replacing Mrs Salt and will be working 3 days a week.

Primary 7 presentations

BM is consulting with Staff and the Pupil Council but it was agreed that some reform of the Primary 7 presentations would be required. Ideas included making a little video or the like or a year book would be very useful.

Infant Sports day

BM noted that this year the infant’s sports day would take place at Kelvinside Academy’s sports grounds and would likely take a different format. Some felt that this might be more inclusive and perhaps there could be team competitions although it was also noted that it was important the pupils who were natural athletes were given a chance to shine also.

Primary 7 Trip

The primary 7 trip to Barcaple Outside Education Centre will take place between 13 and 17 March this year.

<p>6.0</p>	<p>AOCB</p> <p>LK brought up the lack of access for the students to IT equipment. She is aware of other schools which have IT labs which at present Kelvindale simply did not have space to have as all rooms were currently being used as teaching facilities. The current provision included a relatively small number of laptops which did not allow one each in a class. It was also understood that they were not all reliable. STEM is part of the school improvement plan and it was agreed that BM would raise this with the Council Education Department as it was unfair that Kelvindale pupils should not receive the same access as pupils from other public schools in Glasgow.</p> <p>LK also noted that a number of children did not enjoy running around at break. Would it be possible to have some sort of quiet space for them? ASM pointed out that it might be possible to put contemplative spaces and/or small huts at the former chalet site from the beginning of September onwards.</p> <p>LK had been speaking to a parent who noted concern at having to pay for a nativity ticket after paying the “Christmas fund” contribution and additional fund raising efforts throughout the year. The Parent Council noted that the ticket prices were reasonable and funded the purchase of materials for the show but if any parent had a difficulty in buying a ticket, with the money going to school funds, they should see BM.</p> <p>AM noted further concerns with poor driving this time in particular on Weymouth Dr in the morning when one car mounted and drove along the pavement nearly colliding with pedestrians. BM advised the Police had been informed and would be making visits in the near future.</p> <p>AM noted that Caroline Darroch has sent the Parent Council a card thanking them for their input.</p>	
<p>7.0</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>To be confirmed</p>	

<p>Chairman - Alisdair Matheson (P2 & 4)</p> <p>Secretary - Paul Dyer (P4)</p> <p>Treasurer - Jacqueline Burns (P2 & P7)</p> <p>Parent Members:</p> <p>Craig McNally (P4)</p> <p>Andrea Geedes (P4 and P6)</p> <p>Lesley Kennedy (P4 and P7)</p>	<p>Tom Willacy (P3)</p> <p>Co-opted members:</p> <p>Gillian Roulston - Teacher’s Representative</p> <p>Advisor:</p> <p>Barbara Matheson – Acting Head Teacher</p>
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