

Riverside Active Parent Partnership

Minutes 29th April 2021

Present:

Headteacher	Michelle MacPhee	Parent Members	Roxanne Hadley	
Chairperson	Josephine Amos		Laura Livesey	
Vice Chair	Kathryn Anderson		Sarah McMaster	
	Jenny Robertson			
Treasurer	Kirsty Watson		Kirsty Neilson	
Clerk	Kirsten Mitchell		Laura Clow	

Apologies:

Item	Action Points
<p>1. Welcome – Josephine welcomed everyone to the meeting Josephine introduced Becki Sharp and advised Becki has expressed an interest in taking over as treasurer from Kirsty Watson.</p> <p>2. Headteacher Update – Michelle MacPhee Nature playground currently closed, issues prior to Easter Holidays. Brodie's visited prior to the holidays to quote to replace the maze. Over the holidays the nature playground has pretty much been over-used and damaged, picnic benches are unstable and rotting wood on the maze and has been kicked and decision taken by health and safety team to close the playground. Lots of big stones/rubble which is not great for P1s. Children can access with their class teacher for outdoor learning but not during break and lunchtime.</p> <p>Brodie's have visited to quote to remove the maze and Gilchrist's for landscaping and artificial turf in some areas. Astro turf would offer longevity. Also looking at recycled picnic benches. Consultation will be done with children.</p> <p>Michelle in negotiations with council regarding trees planted at P1 entrance as the tree roots are lifting the tarmac and causing a hazard. Waiting for response about who will pay for repairs.</p> <p>Waiting on quotes for nature playground before a timescale to reopen the playground.</p> <p>Assessment week on first week back after the holidays for baseline in maths, spelling etc so each class will be regrouped and start the new term from there.</p> <p>Funding from Scottish Government, prioritising some P4 and P5's who have been identified to help achieve first and second level with attainment. Some P7 pupils have been grouped as were struggling with time so a focus group been set up. This term is about acceleration from where they are currently to ensure a better starting position from August 2021.</p>	

Issued SIP and equity fund as normally this would be canvassed at parents night – google form issued and could it be promoted on the Facebook page

Sports days on 1st and 8th June traditional activities will be adapted to allow for current restrictions. No parental attendance but possibly filmed.

Reports will be issued in June, will be on a google format. Can be emailed or paper copies issued.

Currently looking at staffing and class structure. Just over 70 P1's over all streams. Looking at additional autism class from 4 to 5 classes and mainstream likely to remain at 15 and 3 in Gaelic medium. Hope to remain with one composite class to avoid disruption.

Sarah raised that current P1 parents are concerned with going from P1's to composite classes. Could they move as their current classes and could they move with their current teacher into P2? Michelle advised that every class is a composite class and can understand the concerns and explained they are looking at the class structure right now. Michelle advised they have a P2/3 composite right now and potentially they will move on as that but that is subject to change. There are teachers returning from mat leave and there is also movement with staff moving onto new jobs etc and as soon as the information is available it will be communicated. Looking to share that hopefully before end of May once centre approve it.

P7's transitions with Wallace, communication from Scott Pennock issued. Secured approval for kids to attend Dalguise for the day. They will have a graduation and a summer evening event.

Kathryn asked if we would have probationer teachers, Michelle said we usually have two and occasionally three but not confirmed just yet. Kathryn asked if any of the current probationers would be staying but as there are a few teachers returning from Mat leave there aren't many spaces in the staff team.

6. Fundraising Update – Josephine

Roxanne Hadley has stepped down, Josephine expressed thanks for the work she had done to date.

Laura taking forward a few fundraising items and Kathryn will be looking after the ink cartridge recycling scheme.

The letters the P7's wrote to local businesses have not resulted in grants for us this time but we can try again in the future.

Michelle has sourced hoodies for between £900-£1000

Easter Egg comp with Co-op raised £220 which will be matched by Co-op.

Josephine said check in with Kirsty with paying for hoodies as it may clear the bank account.

Discussing fundraising ideas this term, need to raise £10k for activity trail and would be great if we could raise between £2000 and £3000 this year.

Kirsty Neilson asked Michelle if school needed support with the nature playground and the scope for helping. Michelle advised that she won't know for certain until the quotes come in and also once budgets for next year confirmed. Michelle advised she has a budget meeting on Friday. Need the nature playground functional so this is a priority to be repaired due to segregation around Covid regulations.

Will try and cut costs where possible, i.e. janitor building new picnic benches, maybe do a fundraiser to help to get playground reopen.

Michelle advised that as the space is also open to the community, we can apply for certain grants and funding to help with those.

Sarah asked if the school had ever applied for a lottery funded grant? Kirsten advised that the nature playground had originally been lottery funded. Kirsty Watson advised that our understanding had been that they'd stopped offering grants to schools. Sarah McM offered to speak to Newton Primary to take that forward.

Josephine asked about another fundraiser this term. Sarah thought the dress down day was going to be towards parent council. Michelle said there had been a bit of crossed wires and dress down days were usually for charity and felt that asking parents to put their hands in their pockets again for a dress down day might not be received well and that the parent council were going to take forward one of the other ideas discussed at the last meeting. The P7's approached Michelle about rainbow dress down. Maybe could do smartie tubes for the next wee while and bring in their tubes on the last dress down day and this could be for parent council. Feels like there has been a bit much this year asking parents for money.

Kathryn asked if we leave fundraising for this term? Lots happening in school anyway. Becki said she thought that parents would be happy to contribute some money towards getting nature playground fixed. It was agreed to look into smartie tube fundraiser

Sarah thought going forward a parent council and school event calendar making clear the parent council events. Josephine advised that should be the plan for the next school year.

Laura thought that following the last meeting that fundraising has not moved on much. Having the traditional events is great but to raise the money needed for the trim trail we need to be more proactive and possibly set up a fundraising group who could meet and then report back to the meetings. Laura also felt that communication needs improved. Josephine agreed but said we should not lose sight of the fact that it had been a productive fundraising year, all things considered.

Josephine talked about structure of previous parent councils she has been involved with but needs to be more coordinated in the way it's taken forward. Kirsty N hoped for actual meeting in new session. Josephine discussed about attending classes to get parents involved. Sarah mentioned in her school they have a year group rep who comes to meetings and then communicates out to their group. Sarah said at her school the P1 parents are given a sign up form asking if they would be happy to be contacted by the parent council and if they would be willing to be a year group rep. Kathryn mentioned that previously at the P1 induction evening that two parent council members attended to give a bit

Sarah to look in to Lottery grant. Kirsty W to share previous grant research

Laura to convene a fundraising subgroup to plan fundraising ahead of next session

of background about parent council.

Michelle advised that there will be google meet transition and parent council could attend. We can also send parent council out through the app. Sarah is going to amend her form for parental sign up and send to Josephine. Michelle said we could app out minutes to all parents. We also need to add minutes to the parent council page on the school website.

7. Finance Update – Kirsty W

Kirsty shared her screen with the meeting.

Bank balance as at today £7130.00

£3200 for AP

£900 for play equipment.

£1966 for FitFeb

£1050 is available to spend.

Summary of accounts attached.

Hoodies look likely to be about £700 ish which would leave £300 in account.

There is the £1966 from FitFeb for trim trail and RAPP activities. Laura asked about using the trim trail money to help pay for repairs in nature playground.

This would be a good idea to help to get the playground reopen.

Josephine said smartie tubes could cost in excess of £200 without knowing what return would be. Kirsten suggested approaching supermarkets for a reduced price. Laura happy to approach Morrisons community partner. Becki suggested a QR code on the fundraising letter where parents could just make a donation rather than filling the smartie tubes? Would need to use a platform to collect the money. Kirsty discussed the risk. Kirsty and Becki will liaise to set up a Paypal money pool.

Kirsty asked if we are approving paying for the hoodies. Josephine proposed to pay the hoodies and all on the meeting agreed. Kirsty will speak to Alison for payment.

Going ahead with the smarties, Laura will speak with Morrisons contact. Feeling is that we should proceed but not cover the full cost of the sweets i.e. see if we can get donations/discounts.

Becki suggested a “non-event” as an alternative if Smarties prove expensive. Advertise an event and ask people to pay the cost of a ticket to attend a non-event! Becki will send to Josephine.

9. AOB

Laura mentioned following FitFebruary all emails etc will be deleted due to GDPR guidance and holding data for people who signed up. Laura will delete all spreadsheets etc. Michelle said amazing return for FitFeb.

Sarah suggested going forward, we could get the non-commercial society licence from Stirling Council for Raffles. £40 initially and then £20 annually. Laura said we may not need to pay the £40. Laura thought it would be a good thing to have going forward. Kirsty N going to investigate licence.

Kirsty advised we need an independent examiner of the parent council accounts. Sarah McM said her mum might be willing if not a big job.

Sarah to send Josephine sign up form to adapt Josephine to attend google meet transition for new parents

Laura to approach supermarkets
Kirsty and Becki to set up money pool and QR code if we go ahead

Kirsty to speak to office re payment for hoodies

Becki to share details of “non-event” idea

Laura to delete contact details

Kirsty N to investigate raffle licence

Sarah to ask her mum re: audit

DONM – Thursday 9th September 2021 (AGM).