



Riverside PS Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 11.11.21

Present:

Josephine Amos (Chair)

Kathryn Anderson (Vice Chair)

Jenny Robertson (Vice Chair)

Kirsty Watson (Treasurer)

Laura Livesey

Claire Cowie

Sarah Thomas

Dionysia Dionysiou

Sarah McMaster

Michelle MacPhee

Chrissie Gemmell

Apologies: No apologies

1. Welcome and Introductions

Our Parent Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to give an introduction to kick start the meeting.

Josephine then read out a very detailed overview of the main fundraising events and activities that have taken place over the year and the how the group have overcome the challenges of Covid restrictions over the last 18 months.

Please see some of the key points below:

Because of the pandemic restrictions, we had to move our activities for the 2020/21 session online and have ventured into the world of Just Giving and PayPal Money Pools. We also introduced some online fundraising platforms such as Empties Please for ink cartridges and Easy Fundraising from which a percentage of your shopping from regular stores goes to the school. Together these have raised £100 this year.

Our main focus this year was to raise money to help renovate the Nature Playground. Through a combination of fundraising activities and pursuing various grant-funding opportunities, we are delighted to say that we have been able to contribute a substantial proportion of the funds required for the Activity Trail and new recycled plastic benches.

We secured a £7,500 grant from Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust, £1,500 from Stirling Council through their small grants scheme, £1,000 from Arnold Clark Community Fund and £300 from Waitrose Community Matters scheme.

In addition, our new FitFeb step challenge raised £1,900 and got everyone out and about in the winter months. It got great feedback and engagement with 91 donations and we are considering making this an annual occurrence. Later in the year, our Smarties challenge in the summer raised over £1,100!

We kicked off the year with our quirky “non-event” fundraiser which invited families NOT to come to our Riverside Music Festival. This activity raised £750 through a total of 36 donations. Although the amount raised was good, this indicates it was not an event that appealed to as many households when compared to FitFeb and the Smarties challenge.

Sadly, we have been unable to hold the community building events we are all familiar with – the Halloween Disco, Christmas Fayre etc. In an effort to hold an activity that was more focussed on the children, we organised a Halloween Raffle and a Guess The Number of Chocolate Eyeballs In The Jar. Although fundraising was not the main driver of this activity, we raised an amazing £521.50 which means incredibly we sold over 1,000 tickets!

Both Kirsty Watson and Jenny Robertson were thanked for their contributions to the Parent Council over the past few years and it was announced that they would stand down as Treasurer and Vice Chair.

2. School Update

Mrs MacPhee thanked both Kirsty and Jenny for all they have contributed to the Parent Council and on a personal level.

Mrs MacPhee thanked the parents for their contribution to our new Nature Playground and explained what a difference it has made to the children. The area has been used over the COP26 period and the classes have benefited from being able to have visitors into school again.

The ‘Non-Event’ was discussed and how effective it was in raising crucial funds for the school. Mrs MacPhee was very positive about how this had been received and the positive impact that it had made to the school funds.

Covid mitigations remain the same – school are very much working under protocols and tight guidelines. Hopefully after Christmas we will see some easing of restrictions, if it is safe to do so.

The school have been successful in securing a Creativity Scotland fund of £7000. This will further enhance the playground with an 'Outdoor Imagination Station.' We are going to link with Allan's Primary in this and will provide children with further opportunities to utilise the playground for learning and play.

Big SIP took place today and this was a great chance for our school leaders, both staff and pupils, to share their main aim on leading the school forward this year. Mrs Gemmell created a sketchnote of the minutes of this meeting and this will be shared with parents in due course.

Mrs MacPhee discussed some of the priorities in going forward and the possibility of Parent Council helping financially with these. These are as follows:

- Snack for Christmas parties – Approx. £350
- Numeracy – Heinemann Active Maths £950 – This is an online subscription which will include all children from P1-P7 and involves both in school and home learning options.
- Outdoor Shelter for bikes £3000/ OR scooters £1000 - £1500. The rest could be match-funded by Sustrans if a grant application is successful next session.

Funding was approved for the Christmas Snack and Heinemann Active Maths.

The group discussed possible fundraising ideas and it was agreed that a fundraising for a new bike shed next session would be a good idea – pupils could also link their learning from COP26 and Climate Change to the cause. It was agreed that the Parent Council would hold off and fundraise for this in the new year.

3. Financial Update

Kirsty gave a run through of the current finances, including fundraising and expenditure. Mrs MacPhee praised the group on the creative approach that has been taken with fundraising and how much of an impact this has had on the children. The recent Halloween raffle was a big success!

Kirsty also explained that some of the money currently in the school fund is due to be sent out to the school for the Activity Trail – this is due to some funding being in already.

4. Fundraising Ideas

Fit February will return this year as a main fundraising event. Pupils and families will be challenged to complete a certain amount of steps over the month of February. This was extremely successful last year and will hopefully be well received.

It was agreed that the cost of the fun run needs to be taken into account to ensure that, if this is able to go ahead, there are sufficient funds available. Mrs MacPhee will update the Parent Council group when guidance is available on this.

5. AOCB

Elected Members were voted for and the new / existing roles are as follows:

Chair – Josephine Amos

Vice Chair – Kathryn Anderson

Treasurer: Dionysia Dionysiou

Secretary: Chrissie Gemmell

Co-Opted Members: Laura Livesey & Sarah McMaster

The group discussed the roles and responsibilities of running the Pupil Council and how we could best increase the numbers attending each meeting. A suggestion was made that looking to elect a 'parent rep' for each class might be beneficial in getting more parents on board. Josephine agreed that this was needed and would be a focus for the next meeting.

- Sarah asked Mrs MacPhee about the company who produced the COP26 Mugs for our school project. Mrs MacPhee will find out more information about this and will share with Parent Council.
- Kirsty Watson shared Thrived to Maximise – a programme that runs across the Stirling area for parents and families. Mrs MacPhee was keen for school to be involved in this and would be keen to share this if the leaflet can be sent into school.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 13th January 6pm