

Roslin Primary School Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting on 2nd September 2015

Present: Claire Witney (CW_Treasurer, chair person), Alex Clark (AC-Secretary/Minutes), Andrea Berry (AB), Anna Hulton (AH), Holly Gibb (HG), John Phillips (JP), Jon Steele (JS), Jo Wilson (JW), Julie White (JW1), Kim Blair (KB), Lynne Harrower (LH), Mairi Needham (MN), Rhona Farren (RF), Sam Hamilton (SH), Stuart Clark (SC).

Apologies: Annie Douglas (AD), Colin Burt (CB), Shelley Kay (SK- chair person), Simon Bullock (SB), Zoe Fergie (ZF).

1. Welcome. CW welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Bilston school update

The site manager for the contractor Harveys & McLaughlin (George) brought some basic drawings to have a look. Works on the Bilston school started 4 weeks ago. Every Friday at 10am there is an open door meeting. George explained how they engage with the children in particular regarding safety on site and around the area (traffic management is crucial as some areas are tight for lorries). They are also keen to help the children understand how a building is constructed.

JW confirmed that it had been a very positive start with the community being involved and everyone has been kept informed.

George added that there is a local labour policy to benefit the community. Contractors can contact George, check notice boards or advertisements in the local shops.

3. Roslin school update

Derek Ferrier and Steven Small (from Midlothian Council) brought some plans for the new Roslin School. The work on the new Roslin school is due to commence in March 2016 and construction should last for 1 year. Different issues were considered:

- traffic management: general traffic will remain the same but site traffic will be scheduled so it doesn't coincide with school hours
- switch/storage room: demand for access from the outside
- maintenance room: concern was raised regarding the reduced space for maintenance carried out by the janitor
- storage space: in classrooms one wall is designed for teaching and the other for storage
- internal security: internal security has been rationalized to remove internal fobs (lesson learned from Burnbrae)

4. Minutes of PC meeting from 14th May - accepted.

5. Matters arising

a. Staffing

JW announced that Ms Stentiford, a very experienced music teacher from Beeslack was coming to teach at Roslin school for one and a half days/week. The music room is being worked on.

PE support from Beeslack is still provided by 2 teachers (Scott and Gemma) coming in the school. Miss Brodie is PE champion and will coordinate PE.

P4 is being covered by Miss Menzies (NQT).

Playground supervision is provided by 2 assistants and staff. Prefects will only be present at break time.

b. School improvements

Various improvements were carried out during the summer: The gym hall, corridor and small room were repainted, making the areas much brighter. Containers have been added outside to provide storage and help declutter some areas. Several areas have been improved including the nursery and the library. Some resources have been added. Support for learning and the music room are in work in progress.

No updates on Bilston were provided as the improvements were made at the end of last year.

LH asked for some clarification regarding the playground area in Bilston as the building works have started. JW assured that the children should be playing in the big area and not at the back.

c. iPads

5 new iPads have been ordered but haven't yet arrived. All iPads will have the same apps installed including Jolly Phonics which has been bought.

6. Behaviour

The behaviour policy remains the same but the 'Good to be Green' system has ended as it made some children quite anxious and didn't seem to help improve behaviour. The Visible Learning route has been favoured using YOYOB (You Own our Own Behaviour) and different steps (warning from teacher, thinking time, reflection time and then speak to the Senior Management Team).

HG commented on this new approach and expressed some concerns regarding the 'reflection chair/area'. After discussion it was decided that this system should be explained better. The reflection area should be viewed as a calming area to reflect on behaviour and allow pupils to come back to the class rather than a punishment.

It was decided that the letter would be reworded. SC, HG, JS and MN volunteered to meet up with JW to discuss the letter and look at reflection areas.

7. Fun day.

AC will coordinate the Fun day but more volunteers on the day are needed as there are only 2 helpers so far. KB, AH, JP volunteered to help. There will be a Bookshop and 2 games (Hook a duck and Splat the Rat). Roslin Fun day will be on Saturday 5th September in Roslin Park from 12 to 4 pm.

8. Fundraising.

- Christmas cards: it was agreed to do Christmas cards again as they have been popular in the past.

AH asked if it would be possible to do tea towels. All were in favour but it was decided to do them at the end of last term.

- Coffee morning for MacMillan (Friday 25th September 2015) was suggested. It was decided that lots of parents were already involved out of school so it was not discussed further.

- Health and Safety about food hygiene was mentioned and JW confirmed that both nurseries had passed.

- A reminder about Easy fundraising will be sent out.

9. Communications.

- CW confirmed that the membership to SPTC was paid.

- The date of the Parent Council meeting for March was changed from the 17th March to the 9th March

- JW mentioned that there will be a call for parent helpers across the school. Some helpers are still required for swimming in P4.

- Beeslack AGM will be held on Wednesday 23rd September at 7pm in the school library. JP encouraged people to join the PC.

- SC volunteered to come into the school to talk about his brain operation as the children have been learning about the brain.

- AH is happy to carry on with STEM events this year and possibly include the middle area.

10. A.O.C.B.

The Parent Council has agreed to the resolution of changing the signatures for the school cheques.

Next PC meeting at Bilston Annexe – Thursday 12th November 2015, 6.30pm.