

Roslin Primary School Parent Council
Thursday 22nd September 2022
Minutes

Present: Madhu Satsangi, Helen Love, Kat James, Colin Burt, Councillor Pauline Winchester, Susan Welsh, Emma Hutt, Evelyn Philpott (minute), Mhairi Spence, Craig Barrowman, Karen Lipscombe, Eilidh Wilson, Tim Crymble, Lisa Rutherford, Emma Ahlqvist, Suzie Fegen.

Apologies: Claire Houston, Amy Collop, Nico Thompson, Sara Rodriguez-Martin.

1. **Welcome** to all, particularly to Councillor Winchester and to Kat James in her 1st PC meeting as DHT.
2. **Minute** of last meeting (May) accepted.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - a. Composite classes: HL said that School guidelines had been followed in composite class arrangement. Composites arranged on basis of age, additional needs and gender balance. Parents raised concerns about the composition balance of composite classes with just 5 P4 girls in the P3/4 class as an example. Similarly, the P6 class has been segregated with just a few children in the composite. Some parents were feeling unhappy, as the size split in composite classes had been raised previously. HL said that due to increase in size of village there was a need to reorganise the classes. Three models had been submitted to Midlothian Council, and the council chose the current model to organise the classes into composites. There are no rules set on how the composites classes are split numbers wise. She noted that composite classes have smaller numbers and there is a concerted effort to integrate the class groups more. HL apologised if communications had been insufficiently clear and agreed to give further information.
 - b. Cost of School Day: HL noted that the School had acknowledged the cost-of-living crisis and this has been incorporated into planned activities. Part of the pupil equity fund has been set aside so lots more clubs etc. are free.
 - c. PC finances and fundraising:
 - i. CB said that PC funds are running low <£350 and we should consider fund raising options. All suggestions are welcome.
 - ii. Hallowe'en parties: EH said that the Original Rosslyn Inn has very kindly offered its services to host the annual Halloween party with a free venue and DJ. Parent volunteers will be required to supervise, decorate, clear up and help serve drinks etc. This will be Thursday 27th October 5pm-8pm with 50 minute blocks of partying for P1-2 (5-550pm), P,3,4,5 (6-650pm) and P6 -7(7-750pm). It was agreed to have a £2.50 ticket price with option to buy tickets for others (pay it forward).
4. **Discussion with Councillor Winchester:** Councillor Winchester outlined the context of Midlothian growing about 3x the rate of other areas in Scotland, with most new housing development allocated to West Midlothian, including Roslin and this explains the growth pressure on the School. Financially, the Education budget is

protected, but other LA services are likely to see some significant reductions.

Parents raised a number of transport issues:

- a. Is there a possibility Roslin be made 20mph? This was under consideration, depending on pedestrian traffic and other conditions.
 - b. Complaints had been made about parents parking around the school/village during drop off and pick up. There is a problem for students travelling from Auchendinny. There is no public transport available and while there is a bus/taxi service available not all children qualify for free travel on this. TC said that an active travel link to Auchindinny would be very helpful.
 - c. MS said that there was no safe active travel route from Roslin to the new high school location.
 - d. Cllr Winchester requested all suggestions/issues are emailed to her so she can follow up. TC agreed to draft.
5. **School Vision:** HL introduced this with the vision following the statement of School values. It was agreed that looking ahead to where we want to go over a 3-5 year period would be more meaningful than a longer period. Any ideas were welcome and Cllr Winchester said that there may be some funding possible for brainstorming projects.
6. **Homework:** HL said that P3-7 will start bringing home chromebooks to assist in homework tasks, although not all work would be screen based. A full week would be given for tasks to be completed, giving children more flexibility on when to do them. Concerns were raised about not having too long periods on screen (a maximum 20 minute block at School) and about children having laptops on laps (health and posture).
7. **School Uniform:** HL said that there may be a case for (in time) changing the colour of the school uniform from claret to teal/navy to match colours commonly used across the School. It was agreed that wider discussion was needed, and that we should stick to colours that are easily available.
8. **Nativity Play:** Traditionally P1-3 were involved in the nativity play however with increasing class sizes it was suggested that the nativity this year just consist of P1-2. Parents raised that the existing P3 class hasn't had the chance to do the nativity properly due to covid and it would be a shame if they missed out. Parents suggested P3 get the chance to do some sort of performance. P4 will be doing a performance later in the year also.
9. **Parental engagement:** KJ introduced a family engagement calendar listing social events where parents could find out when and where they can be more involved. This idea was warmly welcomed. It would be an online calendar listing house colour days, dress down days, stay and play etc . There was also discussion on whether fund raising days should be more focused on local charities? Or perhaps chose one local, one national and one international charity day instead.
10. **AoCB**
- a. **Christmas Fair:** There was discussion around the possibility of a Christmas Fair this year again however given the next parent council meeting isn't until November maybe there is a need to hold more regular PC meetings so we have time to plan Christmas? Meanwhile, the Social Committee is planning Hallowe'en and will start planning for a Fair.

- b. **PC publicity:** SW suggested that there is a need to publicize the Parent Council a bit more, particularly for new parents. The parent consultations give an opportunity to try to encourage more parents to come along. MS will be writing to new P1 and nursery parents about the PC.
- c. **Class reps** for this academic year:
 - Nursery: Eilidh Watson
 - P1: Emma Ahlqvist
 - P2: Mhairi Spence
 - P3: Evelyn Maginnis
 - P4: Emma Hutt
 - P5: Susan Welsh
 - P6: Claire Houston
 - P7: Madhu Satsangi