

Roslin Primary School Parent Council

Meeting 7th March 2024 6:30pm

Minute

1. Welcome and Apologies

Attendees: Madhu Satsangi (Chair), Helen Love (Head Teacher), Jo Mistry, Sara Jones, Eilidh Wilson, Rhian Monro, Claire Houston, Mhairi Spence, Nico Thompson, Karen Lipscombe, Susie Fegen, Lesley Deas (Acting Deputy Head Teacher) and Tim Crymble.

Apologies: Emma Hutt, Evelyn Maginnis, Craig Barrowman, Amy Collop

2. Minutes from previous meeting approved.

3. School Toilets – following on from the last meeting children getting changed in the school toilets for after school activities such as judo was to be looked into. LD advised she would look into this further to ensure suitable arrangements are in place for children needing to change. **Action: LD**

4. Matters arising:

- a. **MUGA** – There was confusion over responsibility for locking the MUGA gate prior to a booked session. LD discussed this with Midlothian Council who have confirmed the gate will not be locked at all. If the MUGA has been booked for use but is being used when the bookers arrive, they will be responsible for notifying the other users of their booking. Bookings can be made through Loanhead Leisure Centre, however it was noted that the availability of the person who is able to make the bookings is limited.
- b. **Christmas Parties** – Other schools fund these parties whereas parents in Roslin are asked to pay towards the cost. Item was discussed during PC Spending Priorities below.
- c. **Parent/Carer Survey** – The responses are still being reviewed. An issue highlighted was that some people were not sure who their year reps are. It was agreed that a separate list of the reps would be compiled and put in the school newsletter along with a link to the PC page on the website. The P1 rep has changed and is now Jo Mistry, this will need to be updated on the current list. **Action : HL**
- d. **PC Spending Priorities** – There is currently a healthy balance in the account so discussion was had on how best to use the money.
 - i. The school would like to replace reading books which costs around £1000 per stage. Three of the 12 stages have been replaced, these are in the upper school where less copies of each book are required. PC has already donated £500 and had agreed previously to donate a further £500 to fund replacement books. It was agreed that using more PC money to fund the books was beneficial for all therefore a further £1000 will be donated for this. **Action: CB.** It was suggested that when PC events are being run it would be beneficial to highlight to parents and carers what we are fundraising for (e.g. new books).

- ii. Discussion around PC helping to fund the Christmas parties will be carried forward for discussion next term. The main issue appeared to be around the value for money for the £3 rather than not wanting to pay at all. HL advised that the pay it forward scheme had generated £1100 which corresponded exactly with the amount of money requested by families needing help towards costs.
- iii. Provision of play equipment was discussed and HL advised that the new climbing frame cost £6000 so it is unlikely the PC would be able to fund new equipment.
- iv. EW brought up leaving gifts for the nursery children moving on to P1 as there had been a request to see whether PC could contribute to the cost of this. HL has asked the nursery to scale back the leaving gifts as the nursery is part of the school and there are no leaving gifts at other stages therefore the PC are not required to contribute to this.

5. **School Strategic and Improvement Plans** – HL advised Midlothian Council has a 5 year plan for education and she is required to supply a 5 year plan specifically for the school by Apr/May. The school values and vision statement are in place and some aims were highlighted regarding good local links (Roslin Chapel, Roslin Glen and the Science zone), and the experience of a Roslin learner at each year of school (HL needs to add the nursery to this). HL would like a focus on raising attainment, equity and inclusion and engagement. Midlothian Council has 2 main priorities and the school plan also needs to take these into account. PC were asked on their thoughts for where they would like the school to be in 5 years' time. HL advised at the next meeting she will arrange a further activity using the ideas generated. Parents and carers are welcome to send their ideas and suggestions to her prior to the next meeting.

6. **AoCB**

- a. **School emails** – It was suggested that the school office staff put the text from pdf attachments into the main body of emails or provide a summary to make these easier to search for. HL advised she had discussed this with the office staff and it was deemed an inefficient use of their time to do this. The letters sent out as pdf attachments have to be saved that way as these need to be supplied to parents and carers who have not given an email address. HL had looked into an app that other schools use however following discussions with colleagues at these schools the app isn't always compatible with all devices and the schools aren't finding it useful. HL stated that the admin staff are working hard and are struggling to fit in all the work they need to do and so would not have the time to duplicate effort by putting the letters in the attachments into the email however they have been trying to put as descriptive a subject line as possible to help parents and carers.
- b. **Screen time** – Concerns over how much screen time children were getting at school and how beneficial the screens were particularly in the lower school. Some suggestions put forward by CH were; making social time screen free, no scrolling YouTube, more information being provided on what the digital devices are being used for (there was concern that pupils can message each other using google docs outside of school), have 1 day a week screen free, and a digital detox for one week each year. HL advised the school were inspected this week by a team of 4 quality improvement inspectors from the council and device usage was looked at and the inspectors were very happy with

what the school were doing. HL acknowledged the concerns however some device usage is dictated by the curriculum and the council have spent a lot of money investing in the devices so are championing their use. HL stated that social time with the use of screens should only be on Fridays however she confirmed she would take CH's suggestions and look at whether any could be implemented. **Action: HL.**

KL asked why parents/carers were not notified of the inspection and HL confirmed as it was an internal inspection for quality improvement by the council these inspections would not ask for parental/guardian views as would happen for HMI inspections.

- c. **Sports Day** – There was concern that having a mixed gender sports day may put girls off competing, a concern borne out in research. HL advised that last year 3 non-binary and trans children had decided not to take part in sports day as they didn't want to take part in girls' and boys' races. The mixed sports day was to try and be inclusive however it was highlighted that inclusion needs to balance everyone's needs. HL confirmed the non-binary/trans children had not been consulted on how they would like the sports day to be run and agreed that this should be discussed with them. **Action: HL.** A suggestion of having girls, boys and open categories was put forward. It was also advised that Scottish Athletics has mixed competitions up to age 9 and thereafter the categories are female and male/non-binary. EW queried whether the nursery children could be included in the sports day rather than having their own separate day however HL advised with the number of children at nursery it would be too difficult to manage. HL and LD confirmed they would look into options for sports day to ensure inclusion and balance for all. **Action: HL and LD.**
- d. **P7 Hoodies** – There are concerns over the quality of the hoodies (mainly the coloured leavers' ones rather than the grey ones). HL asked whether parents/carers would still want the coloured hoodies, these used to be ordered and worn at the end of the school year however in order to provide more value for money and to get more wear out of them this was changed to allow the children to wear these from the start of P7. This was still felt to be a good idea, CH highlighted that the grey ones can be passed down but the coloured ones are specific to a year group and so these would only be worn by the child they were bought for. It was suggested that the school surveys the current P6 parents/carers to obtain views on this as it will affect them and their children next. **Action: HL.**
- e. **PC Officers 24/25** – This will be the last year MS will be chair of the PC as his youngest child will be moving to S1. MS asked the PC to think about taking on the position of chair as this would need to be set at the AGM in June. EH has advised she is happy to continue as vice-chair and CB as treasurer therefore a new chair and ideally a new secretary will be needed.
- f. **Date of next meeting: 9th May 2024 6:30pm.**