

BLACKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting – Wednesday 23rd October 2019

Present: Pauline Ward, Janie Campbell, Gail Hutchison, Louise Grattan, Alyson Bennie, Jenny Bowman, Lynsey Clark, Lucy Douglas, Chris Forbes, Philip Frame, Fiona Harrigan, Erin Illingworth, Jo McGuigan, Christine McMillan, Ashley Meldrum, Kimberley Munro, Donna Neeson, Angela Norris, Pamela Paterson, Julie Smith, Tori Summerville, Wendy Thomson, Susan Wayt

Apologies: Claire Black, Jaclyn Bunten, Vivien Colquhoun, Angela Craig, Jane Hall, Lorna Laird, Maggie Neilson, Fiona Soper, Zoe Stein, Carol Strom

Welcome & Apologies

Pauline Ward opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance. Apologies from the above named were noted.

Correspondence

Correspondence had been received via Des Dickson at South Lanarkshire Council regarding “Fast Forward” which provides education to Parent Councils in relation to gambling support for young people. It was felt that this is more aimed at high school age children and so would not be progressed.

Financial Review

Gail Hutchison gave a financial overview of the accounts since the last meeting.

Transactions since last month in relation to the Halloween parties are £821 for ticket sales, with £193.69 spent so far for decorations, glo sticks, lights and ancillaries. The cash and carry run and DJ are still to be paid and a full update will be provided at the next meeting.

Gail advised that a sum of money had been found within the bag of decorations from last year’s party. After investigation with the school and Gillian, it had been confirmed that this was money taken on the night of the Halloween party and put away “safely” – it had thereafter been omitted from the bank handover. This additional sum of £101 had now been banked.

The maths workshop had been paid, totalling £1254. Education City payment is due in November.

Current balance going forward is £4722.14.

Gala Day

Pauline advised that only 60 forms had been returned with interest for the Gala Day, representing 69 pupils (and accompanying adults). Jo McGuigan advised that some pupils had not got forms due to being off on the day of issue, and Julie Smith stated that the Brownies were also committing to enter a group, both of which would impact on school numbers. Nursery pupils had not been lettered, but it was intended to issue these to gauge interest from there. It was agreed that the school would go ahead with a group entry, and Lynsey Clark has kindly offered the use of a tractor and trailer for the occasion.

Jo and Tori will attend the pupil council meeting on Monday 28th October when a decision will be made on the theme for the entry, with the reps being given options of the Olympics, a pyjama party or under the sea/beach party.

It was felt that more interest may be forthcoming once a theme has been decided and once Christmas is past.

Head Teachers Report (see appendix A)

Christine McMillan provided an overview of events since the last meeting.

- A 68% response had been received by parents to the online surveys done during parents night
- The sponsored bounce had raised over £3000 for school funds, which everyone agreed was a very successful event.
- In relation to staff, Mrs Gray has had a baby girl, Miss Anderson got married and is now Mrs Henderson and numerous students are now on placements throughout the school.
- Dates for Carols Around the Tree have had to be altered slightly as it clashed with the community event.
- Reading workshops for P4-P7, and the annual Read, Write, Count event for P1-P3 will be held in November.
- The school improvement plan continues throughout the school with P6 enjoying Forest School this term, Barnardo's' sessions continuing, numerous staff trainings being undertaken and Christine had attended a Child Protection training event.

Christine then asked all present to complete a short worksheet regarding the school curriculum.

Whilst attending a community event, Christine had been approached by the local councillors who are interested in attending Parent Council meetings and getting involved. It was agreed that Louise will send invitations to the next meeting.

Events

Halloween Disco

Pauline advised that there were fewer volunteers than normal for setting up, and that the letters had not stated that this would be done at 10am. Janie will contact those who have offered assistance and see who can help out. The issue of pupils with allergies/food intolerances was again raised. It was agreed that parents of these pupils had previously provided treats for their children to ensure they did not miss out, and this would happen again this year.

Movie Night

Pauline had been contacted by Amanda Steele of AJ Creations in relation to the sweet bags for this year. She had advised that the pupil council would be making these up this year. Alyson advised that the final decision on the movie will be made at the pupil council meeting on Monday 28th October, and this would allow plenty of time to get the appropriate licence arranged.

AOCB

Alyson stated that since the advice given by Gail last month, the sound system seemed to be much improved, however asked if new microphones could be funded by the Parent Council due to breakages. It was agreed that this would be covered and Gail will liaise with Sandra re same.

Gail asked if it would be acceptable for the Parent Council to buy small “thank you” gifts for Sandra and Debbie in the office for all the additional help they have provided in dealing with Halloween tickets etc. It was agreed by all present that this was okay.

Close

There being no further business, Pauline concluded the meeting and intimated that the next meeting would be on Wednesday 20th November at 7pm.

Head Teacher Report Wednesday 23rd October

- 68% of our families responded to the survey carried out at progress meetings with teachers, pupils and families
- Sponsored Bounce □ £3550

Staff

- Mrs Gray has a beautiful baby girl - all well!
- Mrs Forbes thanked the Parent Council for the 'lego fund' - this club is taking place at lunchtime in school.
- Miss Anderson has got married and is now Mrs Henderson
- Students on placement in nursery and across the school

Dates

- **NEW DATE:** -Carols Around the Tree - Wednesday 11th at 1pm and 7pm and Thursday 12th at 1pm
- Reading P4-7 Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st at 9:30am - 10:30am
- Read Write and Count P1-3 Thursday 21st at 1:30pm

School Improvement Plan

- Family Learning & Personalised Support
 - Barnardos -drop in session- cuppa connect
 - Reading W/shops
 - P6 Forest Schools
 - Maths Week Scotland - big success, thanks to Mrs Bennie for organising and to all who supported
- CLPL-Active Literacy training, Forest Schools Training , Mental Health, West partnership
- Parent Council Activity -HGIOS 2.2 - Curriculum

Future Events

- Halloween
- Christmas Movie Night