

## **BLACKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of Meeting – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

**Present:** Pauline Ward, Janie Campbell, Gail Hutchison, Louise Grattan, Alyson Bennie, Jacklyn Bunten, Vivienne Colquhoun, Philip Frame, Erin Illingworth, Fiona McCallum (Barnardo's), 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, Jenny Bowman, Lynsey Clark, Angela Craig, Lucy Douglas, Christine Forbes, Fiona Harrigan, Lorna Laird, 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.

Fiona McCallum from Barnardo's was introduced to the meeting and she thereafter gave an overview of her role within the school for the 2019/20 session. Fiona will be working in partnership with the school and providing family support. Drop in clinics will be held, the first one in September having been well received and plans made to hold these on a monthly or bi-monthly basis.

Christine advised that PEF funds had been used to secure Fiona's post along with other counselling services and family support courses being made available for the benefit of children and families in the school community.

#### **Correspondence**

Correspondence had been received from South Lanarkshire Council confirming insurance cover for Parent Council events for 2019/20, and also confirmation of all requested lets for meetings, Halloween and the movie night.

#### **Financial Review**

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

Bank balance at the start of the 2019/20 session was £6339.90. Spending since the last meeting was £30 for Gillian's flowers, £150 for the bus for the P7 leaver's trip and £147.96 for Lego for the pending school Lego club, closing balance is currently £6011.94.

Costs of the forthcoming maths workshop and Education City payments were still to be made. .

#### **Events**

- Pauline advised that she had attended the Kirkmuirhill and Blackwood Gala Day AGM. Due to circumstances the 2020 Gala Day will be a "blank canvas" and the committee are open to all suggestions. The Queen and Champion will be selected from P7s at Blackwood Primary School and it is anticipated that parental consent will be requested for inclusion in the selection process this year, with selections due to be made in the coming 2 weeks.

It has been requested that the committee be advised if groups are entering a walking pageant or a float to assist with planning. There will be various fundraising events throughout the year.

Alyson advised that the pupil council had discussed ideas for themes for the school entry and this would be further discussed and narrowed down soon to allow planning to be commenced.

It was agreed that a sub-committee would be required to oversee this activity and volunteers were requested (Jo McGuigan, Susan Wayt, Wendy Thomson, Angela Norris and Tori Summerville kindly volunteered to lead this group). The sub-committee will be asked to work with the pupil council and the school to progress this over coming months.

- Sponsored Bounce – This is due to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> September and is being run by the school Health Committee.
- Halloween Disco – Pauline advised that the Gary Brown has been booked to DJ at the parties and some decorations had been bought, although more were required and would be sourced. Flyers would be distributed to parents asking for volunteers and to have tickets pre-ordered. Aldi at Lanark would be contacted in regards donation of krispies and sweets for some of the games and Pauline will contact the fruit shop for apples.
- Movie Night – Alyson advised that the pupil council had been asked with regards having The Greatest Showman as the movie, however this had not been very popular, with a Disney movie or Aladdin being suggested, or a Christmas movie. The pupils had also suggested having mats on the floor to lounge on rather than rigid seating, and this was met with a positive response by those present. It was agreed that the pupil council would be approached to choose a movie before the next meeting in order that the appropriate licence can be arranged.

### **Head Teachers Report (see appendix A)**

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

- P1 and P7 had visited New Lanark and feedback was positive.
- Captains and Vice Captains had been elected and it is intended that these pupils have a more prominent role within the school and being “pupil voices” to encourage leadership and responsibility.
- Senior staff had supported the local McMillan Coffee morning, and the management team had been providing support at Bent Primary due to their head teacher being absent at present.
- Interviews had taken place for a team leader vacancy within the nursery and Freda Marshall had been successful, thereby creating a 0.4 FTE vacancy which will be advertised. The nursery has settled into the new routines and work is due to start on the new nursery building on Thornton Road. This will be a 50 week nursery and accommodate from age 2 years.
- The school improvement plan continues to be at the forefront, with P1 having a 6 week block of Bookbug, active spelling workshops being held with a 45% parent attendance rate,

the 1<sup>st</sup> drop in session with Fiona from Barnardo's being successful, maths week scheduled for October 2019 with a family learning session on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, self improving school activities being extended to involve children as well as staff, and various presentations and workshops being attended by staff.

- Parent's night will be 10<sup>th</sup> October and appointments will be allocated in the next week.

### **Cost of the School Day**

Christine stated that the school had continued to look at this subject and it was proposed that birthday cakes/sweets, Christmas gifts to staff and gifts from staff to pupils be stopped within the school. Over recent years peer pressure has played a part in these activities snowballing and it was felt by all present that this was a good idea and that the decision would be well supported. Parents will be notified of this in the forthcoming newsletter.

Alyson advised of a new app which had been launched called "thank my teacher", whereby parents (and pupils) can arrange for a personalised card to be sent to their chosen staff member via the app. Again, this was well received by those present.

### **AOCB**

Gail advised that further investigations had been made with regards the sound system. She detailed some techniques which would alleviate the ongoing problems which occurred between rehearsals in an empty hall and performances with an audience. This involves performing sound checks properly and appropriate use of microphones. Staff found this information very helpful and asked if Gail could provide written instructions, and possibly arrange for her contact with South Lanarkshire Council to assist with training in this area.

Janie advised of the process for using EasyFundraising which provides funds for the school through purchasing online, and asked if those present could 'spread the word'. Gail also highlighted that The Book People also provide vouchers for schools with purchases from their site, and that these methods could provide some welcome additional funds for the Parent Council and school.

### **Close**

There being no further business, Pauline concluded the meeting and intimated that the next meeting would be on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 7pm.

## Appendix A

### Head Teacher Report Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September

- Primary 1 and Primary 7 visited New Lanark and took part in a book festival 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> September

	<b>Captains</b>	<b>Vice- captains</b>
<b>Beech</b>	Brianna & Callum	Rhys and Erin
<b>Oak</b>	Josclyn & Josh	Ryan & Logan
<b>Sycamore</b>	Emma & Grant	Usman & Nathan

- SMT supported the coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer on 20.9.19
- Management presence at Bent Primary



### Staff

- Still awaiting news from Mrs Gray who has started her maternity leave.
- 0.4FTE Team Leader - Freda Marshall successful at interview → 0.4FTE vacancy in nursery

### School Improvement Plan

- Family Learning & Personalised Support
  - P1 Bookbug ASC - Mrs Strom
  - Active Spelling Workshops 45% (111/249) attended this event
  - Barnados - 18.9.19 -drop in session
- Maths Week Scotland 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> October with a family learning event planned for Wednesday 3pm-4pm
- SIS work shared to all HT in SLC On 12.9.19
- Christine, Ashley and Rachel - Literacy journey cascaded to all schools in Larkhall Learning Community on 11.9.19
- CLPL-Active Literacy training, Forest Schools Training , Bikeability, Mental Health, Singing, West partnership
- Hosted inset on Handwriting

### Future Events

- Sponsor Bounce tomorrow (26.9.19)
- Parents Night Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October