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Bathgate Early Years Centre

Parent Council Annual General Meeting Thursday 30th August 2018

**Present:** **Parents** - Jennifer Strang, Kirsty Petrie, Helen Stirling, Joanna Morgan, Sharon Gill, Carol Moffat, Marion Courtney, Lorna Lang, Paula Diment, Dawn Roden, Audrey Templeton, Laura Marshall, Gillian Greenwell, Clare Dignall, Janice Earl-Summers, Dorthe Davidson, Liz Notman, Jean Stewart, Alison Currie, Karen Smillie, Leigh Maybury, Gillian Sandland, Claire Swan, Marion McCallum

**Staff** – Margaret Johns, Katy Leamy, Kevin McCabe, Claire Bett, Emma Reid, Samantha Wilkins, Taylor Anne Kelly, Elizabeth White

**Apologies:** Beth MacKinnon, Amanda Drinkwater, Ros Milligan, Kay Taylor, Harry Cartmill

**Approval of Previous minutes**

* Minutes slightly incorrect regarding float funds and treasury report. Float usually costs about £1300 on average. Lots of this is fundraised using dress down days and Xmas stall, however money is all in one account with other parent council funds. Current account total is £7293, some of which was fundraised by the float committee. Audrey has requested that £1500 is ring fences for the float costs this year as some repairs are needed on the trailer. That leaves £5793 in the Parent Council account.
* Some minute points from last meeting will be carried over as it is a reduced agenda due to this being the AGM
* Minutes approved

**Constitution and appointment of parent council posts**

Constitution will be updated to include Bathgate Early Years Centre. Dorthe explained some key points about how parent council works for new members.

* All parents welcome to attend all or some meetings and all welcome to stand for year rep posts. However only Parent Council members can vote.
* Parent council meeting can’t proceed with less than 4 parents.
* If someone fails to attend 3 meetings in a row without apologies, they will be deemed to have stepped down.
* No secretary post going forward and minutes will be taken using volunteers on rotation.

**Appointments**

Chair Dorthe Davidson

Vice Chair Jennifer Strang

Treasurer Kay Taylor

**Year Reps**

Bathgate West reps - Marion Courtney and Helen Stirling

Early Years Clare Dignall

P1 Beth MacKinnon and Paula Diment

P2 Alison Currie and Gillian Sandland

P3 Claire Swan

P4 Gillian Greenwell and Laura Marshall

P5 Dawn Roden and Jean Stewart

P6 Audrey Templeton and Clare Dignall

P7 Karen Smillie and Amanda Drinkwater

ARB Liz Notman

**Head Teacher’s report**

Brief report tonight due to AGM. Welcomed new deputy Head teachers Kevin McCabe and Katy Leamy. Off to a flying start in new school year, establishing some new procedures and settling in primary 1s. 2 principal teachers Mrs Aitken and Mrs Spence are now out of class. All the leadership team are making an effort to be in the playground and introducing themselves to pupils and parents.

A newsletter will be out at the start of next week at the latest to welcome people to the new school year. It will be covered in the newsletter, but aware of concerns raised about children not being allowed to go the toilet during class and children having to eat packed lunches outside. No child is prevented from going to the toilet during class time, and no child is forced to eat their packed lunch outside in the rain.

Website will go live next week and will contain the finalised annual calendar. Twitter will also be a main feed of information

**Sub group Volunteers**

Volunteers required for following parent council sub groups

* Fundraising committee – Katy Leamy, Claire Swan, Leigh Maybury
* Bikeability – Claire Swan
* Parent engagement working group – Dawn Roden, Dorthe Davidson, Kevin McCabe, Kelly Palmer, Rachel Mansfield.
* Communications – website and twitter - Emma Reid and Taylor Anne Kelly. \*\*Post meeting note – parent Grant Moffat will receive training on updating the Parent Council website pages.
* Float – Audrey Templeton. All new members welcome. Work will start around February and will be on Wednesday evening 6-9 at the school.

Playground working group will be set up by Mrs Johns.

**Treasury Report**

* No change to outgoing funds.
* Some old float items were sold and funds will be added.
* £120 from Easter raffle.
* Funds owed to Douglas Croft for wood used for float.

6 bikes, helmets and storage unit bought for bikeability training using Active School Travel Grant sourced by David Arnott.

**Macmillan Coffee Morning**

Will be on Friday 28th September. Organised by Mrs White and Mrs Murray. Volunteers will be required, but letters will come out with tear off slips. Discussion about whether children will be required to pay for tickets as some concerns raised that some children have been excluded in previous years. Mrs Johns will sort out ticketing and pricing in school but gave assurance that no children would be excluded.

**Pies, Peas and Bingo**

Will be on 4th October at British Legion in Bathgate 6.30 -8.30

Family event and children can attend. Bar will be open

Hall holds 140

Donations are needed for raffle prizes and volunteers needed on the night. Janice, Dorthe and Leigh volunteered so far.

**AOB**

Harry Cartmill raised that the council have proposed a mandatory 20mph limit on Torphichen Street, enforceable by law. He has suggested that parent council should also write to the highways department to support this proposal. Dorthe to get details from Mrs Johns.

Some parents are still parking in layby used by the school bus which causes traffic congestion.

Issues with bad parking at the back of the school; on corners and over driveways. Warnings not seeming to have an effect. Agreed it is a police issue.

Discussed removal of soft start. Some concerns that it wasn’t communicated in advance - parents and children were confused at first. Also concerns that it increases traffic congestion as parents are waiting around for longer. Mrs Johns explained the rationale was in part due to teacher time, but also as it is a structured and calmer start to the day for kids. This is supported by many parents who recognise that the lines is calmer and more structured, and has had a really positive impact on some kids. Kids will be allowed inside school in bad weather.

Mrs Johns is going to consult with the parent body about a parent free playground in the mornings to reduce congestion and improve safety.

Lots of positive comments about teacher and leadership team visibility. Also, recognition that leadership team have improved structure and vision for the school.

Question about whether Care Classes (p7s going into support in other classes) have stopped. No change.

Question about whether dress down days have changed from the first Friday of the month to the last Friday of the month as the first one is organised for tomorrow, 31st August. Mrs Johns was unaware that they were usually the first Friday of the month. They will be in the annual calendar going forward. Mrs Johns is looking to set up a charity committee to determine where dress down day funds will go.

Discussion around Facebook group. While many posts and comments are helpful, concern that teachers are being mentioned, threats are being made and reputation of school is compromised, often based on false information. Acknowledged that the group is not set up by the school or parent council and was well intentioned. Once website and twitter feed are up and running, hopefully people will have other communication methods that can be relied upon.

Lots of positive comments about the uniform recycle and hope that this can be repeated at Xmas Fayre.

Mrs White wished to thank Mr Pettigrew and Mr Whitesmith who helped to dismantle old shed and build new one.

Next Parent council meeting on Thursday 8th November at 7pm.