

Minutes of Gorebridge Primary Parent Council Meeting: Wednesday 24th January 2018

Gorebridge Primary School Community Room: 7pm

Present: Carey Fairgrieve, Janis Harvey, Carrie Campbell, Victoria Edmond, Janine Kettrick, Debbie Denver, Lynne Roy.

Staff: Mrs Grant and Mrs Binnie

1. Review of previous minutes

Minutes of September meeting were reviewed. It was noted that work undertaken in the nurture room and as part of the wider Pupil Equity Funding Scheme is undertaken by the Pupil Equity Improvement Team. This is a correction to the previous minutes.

OSCR trustees report will be submitted in March.

Standards Quality Improvement Plan (SQIP) has been completed and published.

Travel plan was reviewed in light of discussion at previous meeting and subsequent review of journey to GPS form Birkenhead. Road safety assembly was held in November.

Action GG to follow up travel plan with Gillian Bathgate.

Following the last meeting the 'Achieving a Level' leaflet has been revised to make more reader friendly. A new version was distributed to members and will be shared at parents evening.

Action All: to review and feedback any further comments to GG

2. Review of PTA minutes

PTA meeting held 21st January. Minutes from meeting are to be completed. Most items covered at PTA are discussed below.

3. Cost of the school day

In recognition of challenges faced in pupil attendance, Midlothian Council has granted £8000 to the Parent Council under the 'cost of the school day' scheme. The funding comes from the communities' team who have secured match funding for three communities (Gorebridge, Woodburn and Mayfield) to allow for participatory budgeting work which seeks to reduce inequalities because of the cost of the school day. The money will be managed by the Parent Council.

The money must be allocated i.e. ring fenced by April and thus we need to consider and decide upon what to spend the money on in a way that would help encourage attendance at school. At the PTA meeting the possibility of establishing a 'walking bus' had also been discussed with Ellen Scott from Gorebridge Community Cares group considering establish an Inter-generational project which would see volunteers agreeing to walk groups of up to 10 children to and from school each day. Potential issues with this such as volunteers not being available on some days were discussed - this will be explored further.

At the PTA meeting measures that could see children in school in the afternoon on Friday were considered as a possible target as well as programmes that would encourage parents and carers within target families to also come into school in the afternoon. The possibility of reviving the cinema afternoons with free tickets issued to target families was discussed. Establishing a programme of workshops for parents and carers during this time was also discussed. Brenda is conducting research into what activities parents/career might find useful in the afternoon. The possibility of setting up cookery courses/demonstrations with the option to take home ingredients and a recipe card was discussed. Inviting parents/carers into school for a coffee and chat may be a valuable first step with possible uniform swap tables set up where parents can bring in clothes that no longer fit and swap for larger ones or simply just take any uniform that they need.

Staff will need to go on Food Hygiene training courses – this was identified as a good potential use of the remaining Coal Fields Regeneration trust funding which is left over from the anti-dog fouling campaign.

The possibility of asking a representative from the Capital Credit Union to visit the school for a presentation was also discussed

Sarah Spencer the 'Cost of the school day' Project Manager is booked to come into school to work with the children for three days from Monday 19th Feb. She will work with groups of P5-P7 exploring what constitutes the cost of the school day and what measured could be implemented to lessen it.

4. Head Teachers Update:

A three-day school inspection will be held between 26th-28th Feb. A team of 4-5 inspectors will visit the school and observe lessons, review paper work and speak to the children. They will also want to speak to a focus group of parents. The likely outcome of the inspection will be an Action Plan which will be passed on to the new Head Teacher.

The advert for a new Head Teacher went live but has been temporarily removed for correction. Given the timescales and required notice period for senior staff it is unlikely that there will be a handover period between Mrs Grant and the new head Teacher

5. Valentine Disco 7th Feb:

There are sufficient sweets left over from the Santa's Grotto to be given out at the Valentine disco. Carey has already purchased most of what we require with Nicky Gray to purchase decorations (Carrie also has some) and Nicky MacLean to purchase grapes. Janis and Sarah will manage the photo booth for the P4-7 disco. P1-P3 will be making masks.

Gilliam Miller will be present and therefore will be school first aider.

Dennis has been booked as the DJ.

Action LR to check let and prepare a risk assessment.

6. Treasurers Update:

- Recent income- matched giving from BOS foundation after the summer fair (£500) and Halloween disco (£215) also for volunteering hours (£500). Halloween disco raised £348.55 and Christmas fair £36.

- Recent expenditure- invoice from school at end of 2017 for the winter entertainment in school, texts and photocopying. Financial support has been given to establish schools nurture room.
Treasurers Account- the adjusted bank balance, taking the above into account gives a current balance of approx. £4298.

Next meeting date tbc.