

Roslin Primary School Parent Council
Minute of Meeting March 6, 2019

Present: Stuart Clark (chair), Jo Wilson, Amy Collop, Laura Langdon, Colin Burt, Rhona Farren, Jon Steele, Sara Rodriguez, Claire Witney, Madhu Satsangi (minute)

Apologies: Holly Gibb, Helen Wilkinson, Pawlina Dand, Emma Clark, Sue Fitchett, Susan Welsh, Juliet Ridgway-Tait.

1. SC **welcomed** all to the meeting.
2. **Minute** of meeting, January 23, 2019: approved.
3. **Matters arising**
 - a) Uniform exchange – SR said that she, PD and HW are organizing this. SR will suggest to HW that she liaises with Angela Foley to publicize.
 - b) Fund requests from school: JW suggested that PC might consider a number of purchases. After discussion, agreed priorities were 1. Team Roslin hoodies, 2. An urn, 3. Visualizers. A shed for literacy/ numeracy items and blinds for the hall were deferred.
4. **Midlothian Council funding cuts** (item 10 promoted): JW spoke to this and said that whilst the recent campaign had averted cuts that had threatened Learning Support and Educational Psychology provision, the Active Schools programme and Creative Arts teaching, the Schools budget had been cut by £1.3m in 2019-20. She noted that the leader of Midlothian Council had written his concerns to the Finance Secretary, who had replied. The letters are appended. Cuts would mainly impact secondary schools and were likely to mean alternative provision of Advance Higher provision for some subjects instead of direct provision at Beeslack HS.
For Roslin PS, the 2019-20 budget is unchanged from 2018-19. This allows retention of the complement of 8 teaching staff and music and swimming lesson provision. The budget for learning assistants would not be known until May and it was possible that parent/ carer (hereafter parent) contributions for ski instruction would increase.
JS said that the consequences of cuts at secondary schools for pupils' choices were severe as, without advanced highers in sciences, they would not gain entry to medicine courses at Scottish universities. He noted that the Beeslack HS Parent Council had written to parents to inform them and said that Roslin PS parents should be made aware also. Beeslack HS was happy to talk to Roslin PS parents about any concerns. He drew attention to a parent forum at Beeslack HS on March 18 which Roslin PS parents might be encouraged to attend. After discussion, it was agreed that:
 - a) PC will write to parents, summarizing the position and suggesting they contact Beeslack HS with any concerns or about the forum. MS will draft.
 - b) SC will liaise with cluster primary PCs to prepare for joint action should this be necessary.
5. **Pupil Conference:** LL spoke to this, noting liaison with pupils based on prompt sheets on the themes of attainment, science, maths, health and wellbeing, achievement books and developing the young workforce. She invited feedback. PC concurred with CW's perspective that the structure was difficult for younger children. JW said that the process would be reviewed, particularly for younger groups.
6. **Parent pay update:** JW said that take up was very healthy at over 80%.
7. **Social Group:** RF said that the group was to meet to consider events, including a possible BBQ.
8. **P7 yearbook/Leavers' event:** CB said that most of P7 had drafted text for the yearbook and were selecting their photograph. He said that the class had chosen a visit to the Dominion cinema and Pizza Express in Morningside as their event.
9. **'Oor Wullie' project:** JW said that this is a project for raising funds for sick kids' hospitals nationally, with children designing statues. She was to meet the organizer on March 8.

10. **Office staffing:** JW said that she and Angela Foley had interviewed 17 applicants (from 93). The successful candidate would start work at the School after Easter.
11. **Communications**
 - a) CW said that Simpson's special care baby unit had sent a certificate and letter of thanks for the recent donation.
 - b) CW said that there would be a family-oriented community litter pick-up on March 30 starting 9.30 a.m. JW agreed that the School office could publicize this.
12. **A.O.C.B**
 - a) CB reported that P7 were successfully organizing a dance club for P4 (14 participants), chess club for P5-P7 (16) and badminton club for P7 (8).
 - b) Online safety: SR suggested that age appropriate messages need to go to all pupils. After discussion, JW said she would ask that the learning technology team at Midlothian Council provide this.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday May 8, 2019 at 6.30pm.