**BONNYRIGG PRIMARY AND NURSERY PARENTS’ GROUP**

**Thursday 9th May 2019**

**Attendees:** Jennifer Allison, Caroline Finlay, Sarah Stark, Rachel Davies, Pam Newby, Fiona Gardner, Cat McDermid, Susan Thomson, Melissa Allum.

 **Apologies:** Lesley Burrell, Jennifer Everton, Louise Ferguson, Lynsey Dagger and Louise Donaldson

 **Re-Cap/ update**

 Rachel opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

**Chair’s Report**

I have just taken over as Chair from Pamela and this is my first meeting as Chair. Thank you to Pam for all of her efforts over the past year.

A lot has been going on in the school over the last year and Jennifer will provide her Head Teacher’s Report later. A fundraising and finance report will also follow.

**Inspection Report**

In November 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Bonnyrigg Primary School and Nursery Class. The Parent Council, along with the parent body, was involved with meeting inspectors and responding to the preliminary report. We were delighted with the outcome of the inspection (good across the board for the school and satisfactory for the nursery) and confident proposed improvements will be taken forward by the Senior Management Team.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school’s work.

• Caring, nurturing relationships between children and staff. This is leading to children feeling safe, happy and included. Children are very proud of their school and nursery class.

• Strong teamwork amongst staff. Staff are very supportive of one another and work well collectively to meet children’s needs.

• Children’s understanding of the qualities required to be a good learner.

• Teachers’ use of effective questioning to engage children in their learning and help monitor their progress.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the teaching and support staff at the school and nursery for all their hard work and commitment in making Bonnyrigg Primary School a great school to be part of.

**Budget Cuts**

In February 2019 the Parent Council responded to the proposed Midlothian Council budget cuts to express our serious concerns. This was with particular reference to cuts to the Active Schools programme and music tuition. We hope, following a large response, that these have been saved.

Looking forward to next year, however, the Council’s budget proposals are going to remain of great importance and something which we will be following and monitoring closely.

Rachel has been liaising with the Chair of Kings Park Council with a view to forming a closer network of local parent councils so that we can unify on issues that affect us all where relevant and hopefully provide a strong voice at both local Council and potentially Scottish Government levels.

An information/discussion session with the Council is scheduled to take place soon which Rachel hopes to attend.

**Parent Council positions**

Cat McDermid is stepping down as treasurer and Lesley Burrell and Fiona Gardner are stepping down as secretaries.

Thank you all for your efforts over the years which are very much appreciated.

**Fundraising Report**

Sarah Beck provided an update by email. Wish lists spending was discussed. There was a disappointment that more from the pupil wish lists hadn’t been purchased. Jennifer will follow up on this. Re-doing the playground was raised by Jennifer. The school would like more of a natural looking playground. They know this would cost a huge amount but it would be beneficial to all the children.

It was suggested that the funds from the school discos be put towards funding health week.

Sarah Beck has organised lots of activities and people to come in for health week and is coordinating helpers to assist with the smoothie bikes.

New parents are needed to take over the scoring for sports day as the current parents are parents of pupils who are further up the school and won’t be with us next year. Pupils from high school award the places in the competitive races but we need score keepers.

It was agreed that an opportunities list be brought together showing what positions are available for parents to get involved. These could include parent council positions and also opportunities to help throughout the year at events like health week and sports day.

The fundraising group would like to have more say in how funds are spent and would like to know in advance of an event what the funds raised will be used for. A new procedure for requesting the spending of funds was agreed which will include the fundraising committee as well as the parent council. This can be used by staff, fundraising group or parent council members.

**Head Teacher’s Report**

Jennifer outlined some of the key positive and negative points from this year.

* New visions and aims were created this year and the school are proud of these.
* Defibrillators were installed and are a great asset to the school and community.
* The inspection results were positive and have helped focus the school on areas for improvement for the coming year.
* BOATS sessions are very well attended and seem to be well received by children and parents.
* Home learning was changed this year and the feedback has been positive
* Transitions to LHSS has changed for the more vulnerable pupils and this has been really well received.
* New break and lunch club has been set up to support some children who are not coping as well outside and this has reduced a lot of incidents in the playground.
* Play therapy has been a great asset to the school and has been well received by the children who have needed it.
* Seasons for Growth has been a success as in previous years.
* The school received a Silver sport award and they are aiming for Gold next year.
* Louise Ferguson has worked with our ASG on handover for social subjects to ensure there are no gaps or duplication for pupils going to high school.
* The choir has been very successful this year and is growing in strength. They are aiming to be more involved in the community in the coming year.
* Pupil voices have been a focus this year. The children seem to really like the bingo balls and they get to see their views and opinions making changes throughout the school.
* Poverty proofing has been a focus this year and changes have been made.
* BSL – family learning group was a huge success this year.
* The school lost its janitor due to finance cuts. We now have a part time janitor.
* Susan in the office is retiring. Her post was interviewed this week and a replacement has been found.
* Jennifer does not have the school budget yet but she will share this when she does.
* There is an increase in pupils coming in to the school who need additional support and these services are becoming more and more limited.
* Curriculum evening was poorly attended so the school are looking at how they can encourage more parents along to this event.

**Treasurer’s Report**

It’s been a very successful year. The balance at the start of the school year in August was £5759.19. Funds have been spent on the P6 panto trip and ice-creams, P7 leavers’ dictionaries, P1 book bags and Christmas gifts, contribution to the sensory room, new sports kit, the new school app and spelling city.

We received £300 from Stuart and Stuart who sponsored our new sports kit, £2,000 from Tesco which paid for the defibrillators, Christmas Fair profit was £4,727,71 and the Halloween Disco raised £730.

The balance of the account is currently £7519.72.

We need to replace the signatories on the account as Cat is stepping down as treasurer and Susan in the office is also a signatory. We need two signatories on the account per transaction.

**AOB/Close**

Next meeting is the 4th of June to discuss the year ahead.