

# Paradykes Parent Council

## AGENDA for Meeting 24/08/21

Agenda 24/08/2021		
1	Welcome	NR
2	Attendance/Introductions	All
3	Apologies	All
4	Approval of minutes of previous meeting	NR
5	Updates on actions from previous meeting	NR
6	Treasurer's Report	JH
7	Head Teacher's Report	HR
8	Fundraising/Social Events	NR
9	AOB – Communication, League Table ranking, Equipped to Learn Programme	NR/All
10	Date of Next Meeting	NR

## MINUTES from Meeting 24/08/2021

<b>2.Attendees:</b>	<b>Nicola Roberston (Co-chair), Ruth Smith (Co-chair), Alison Bowman, (Co-chair), Fiona Taylor (Co-treasurer), Jennifer Hurst (Co-treasurer), Fin Speedie (Secretary) Pauline Wilson, Toni Denholm, Claire Moffat, Suzanne Connolly, Laura Hay, Laura Devlin, Laura Collin, Enebi Adejoh, Bambina Mascarenhas, Ester Vizcay, Jacky Robertson, Emma Hay, Helen Reed (Acting Head Teacher), Jennifer Sommerville (Acting Depute Head Teacher), Lyndsey Stewart (Principal Teacher), Charlotte Roberts (Class Teacher), Gule Okan (Newly Qualified Teacher)</b>
<b>3.Apologies:</b>	<b>Anne Allard</b>
<b>Minutes:</b>	Fin Speedie
<b>Distribution:</b>	To all attendees, apologies & Mailing List.

24/08/21	
1.	<b>Introductions</b> – Nichola introduced herself as one of the newly elected co-chairs and as the chair for this meeting. The other office bearers and school staff presented were also introduced.
4.	<b>Approval of Minutes from previous meeting</b> – The minutes were approved by Ester Vizcay and seconded by Fiona Taylor.
5	<b>Update on Actions</b>

**Action 1** – *Community Garden*: Money requested was transferred. Staff worked hard over the summer break and groundworks have started. Mr Mangan is still involved in supporting the garden from Cambodia. Wires have been discovered under the soil so awaiting information from the Council regarding if they are dead or need to be removed/moved etc.

**Action 2** – *Advertise Chair vacancy*: Done, 3 new co-chairs elected at AGM.

**Action 3** – *P7 activity week*: Money requested was transferred. Children had a very enjoyable week.

**Action 4** – *P7 hoodies*: Hoodies were arranged for all those who wanted them for current P7s, with thanks to Jennifer for the carrying out the work involved. There was an issue with a name misspelled but has been sorted. Through our current supplier they must be ordered in batches of 25 so we will revisit our supplier and whether the design should just have the year, or P7 screen printed on the back. (**Action 1**)

**Action 5** – *Bag2School Collection*: A reasonable amount of £68 pounds was collected from this collection.

**Action 6** – *AGM*: AGM held in June and all office bearers' roles filled.

## 6 **Treasurer's Report**

Jennifer presented her report as follows;

*At the AGM in June I gave an interim report due to our financial year not due to end until 24 August 2021. As of today I will update the Annual Report and submit at the next meeting.*

*As of 7 June 2021 we had £2931.53 in the bank (including payments from P7 families towards hoodies).*

*Outgoings since the AGM and over summer have been minimal with only the following:*

- *£1584.00 for the 86 P7 2022 Hooded Jumpers.*
- *£51 for leaving gifts for Louise, Nichola and Sarah.*

*Incomings have been:*

*£100 Parent donation towards P7 2022 Hooded Jumpers*

*£138.50 P7 2022 Hooded Jumper Parents payments*

*£169.50 rebate from PPE Industrial for the sale of our school uniforms from 2020/21*

*(This is 50p back per item sold. Meaning 339 items of uniform were sold last year)*

*This leaves us with a current bank balance of £1704.53*

*The only outgoings in the pipeline will be the cost to replace the incorrectly spelled hooded jumper.*

*Thank you Jennifer*

## 7. **Acting Head Teacher's Report –**

Helen presented her report as follows;

### **1. Welcome back!**

*It has been so lovely to see all of our school community returning after the summer break.*

*Everyone seems to have adjusted really well to their new teachers and classes: our P1s have settled in well, as have our new starts in the nursery. The P7s look amazing in their jumpers.*

*Thank you Jennifer for all of your organisation! There is a lovely atmosphere in the school!*

### **2. Staffing**

*We said goodbye to some members of staff at the end of last session:*

*Gillian Reid took on a new role as HT through in Lanarkshire.*

*Bianca Nicol was seconded to Kings Park Primary as a Principal Teacher.*

*Daragh Mangan completed his probation year and accepted a post in Cambodia.*

*Susan Hatton left her dinner supervision role to be able to look after her new grandson. Lesley Coutts was successful in securing an LA position at Stobhill Primary. We thank them all for their hard work and dedication and wish them all the best!*

*We welcome to the team:*

*Lynsey Stewart – our new Principal Teacher*

*Lorna Douglas P2*

*Gule Okan P3*

*Caroline Brownsell P4/5*

*The Paradykes team have already taken them in to the family!!*

### **3. Covid Restrictions**

*We have returned with many of the same restrictions in place as in the summer term.*

*However, a few changes are:*

- The nursery are one bubble as they are currently under 40*
- P3 – P7 classes can now be set up in groups*
- Social distancing has been reduced to 1m*
- Self isolation rules have changed – if a child is a close contact of a positive case, they need only self-isolate until they have taken a PCR test and it is negative*

*The authority are looking to reduce the restrictions over the next 4-6 weeks.*

### **4. School Priorities for session 2021-2022**

*Looking at evidence gathered across the school and taking into account authority guidance, our priorities from P1 – P7 are:*

- Digital Literacy - Jen*
- Nurture*
- Literacy – Writing*
- Learning and Teaching – pedagogy and practice*

*Our priorities in the nursery are:*

- Literacy – Reading and Writing*
- ICT*
- Health and Wellbeing*

*Our PEF funding, which is targeted towards closing the attainment gap, has been allocated towards:*

- Learning Assistants to support literacy*
- Learning Assistants to support nurture groups*
- Play therapy to support Health and Wellbeing*
- Coordinators in Maths and Numeracy, Literacy and English, and Health and Wellbeing in our group of cluster primary schools*

### **5. Other school news**

*The Community Garden has progressed with the pathways being established and the raised beds installed. However, wires have been discovered underneath so these now need to be investigated. Thank you so much to Daragh Mangan and all the staff who have helped to make this happen!*

*The nursery were successful in a bid for funding to the councillors in order to develop their outdoor learning space to create a learning garden. They received over £5,400!!!! They can't wait to get started.*

*A door has been fitted to one of our classrooms in order to reduce the noise level to support one of our learners. It has made a huge difference, and installing doors on all of our rooms is something that we are keen to explore in order to support all of our learners.*

Helen also mentioned that the HT post is not yet advertised but the timeline should be decided soon as both herself and Jen did not interview for their current Acting roles so cat remain in them indefinitely.

As part of the restrictions remaining in place staggered start times must remain at PPS as classes share entry points, unlike some other schools where each class has their own door.

Helen asked for suggestions about how Meet the Teacher could run with most people suggesting a presentation, recorded video or live zoom-type session would be useful. The welcome booklet with information about the years learning was also mentioned as being valuable to parents.

Discussion took place around the school activities that take place in P4-P7 (swimming, skiing, bikeability etc.). It is hoped that where possible the classes who missed out on these opportunities will be able to participate in these, to some degree at least, this year. Helen has asked Midlothian Council for further information. **(Action 2)** The schools' previous bikeability trainers were parents who no longer have children at the school so new parents and/or staff need to be trained in order for this to continue. We can advertise this role on the parent council website – it doesn't need to be a parent council member. Ruth Smith is interested in doing the training but we need others. Jennifer has spoken with a P7 parent who does bikeability training through her work, to see what the costs might be and is awaiting further information from her. **(Action 3)**

#### 8. **Fundraising/Social Events**

We hope to be able to run some events this year but may need to be creative and need to await confirmation of how restrictions will ease before proceeding with plans. This will be discussed further at our next meeting when we know details of how restrictions will ease.

Staff have historically given time in their 'working time agreement' to run events for their classes. (P1/P2 – Easter Party, P3/P4 – Halloween Party, P5&P6&P7 – Movie night). Discussion took place as to whether these would take place this year. Teachers indicated that their working time agreement hadn't been agreed as yet. Parent Council agreed to support the running of these events if required. Jen will look at the school calendar for the year and get back to Parent Council with possible dates. These usually need to be agreed well in advance with Midlothian Council as school only have a set number of 'lets' each year. Ruth will check out the possibility of hosting elsewhere eg. Pentland Roadhouse, if school not an option. **(Action 4)**

#### 9. **AOB**

**Communication** – Feedback from parents has been that communication has been unclear and not always easy to understand with jargon that not all families are familiar with. Helen acknowledged this and has committed to ensuring communication is clear for all. #

**'League Table' Ranking** – The Times newspaper has published a league table which puts Paradykes in the bottom 50 in the country. Parents have expressed concern and confusion around this. Helen clarified that the data it was based on (children's test results) was gathered 3 years ago. It was agreed that the schools success is made up of much more than the academic results of one specific group of children. Helen will share information about attainment and how this type of information is gathered and what it is used for at our next meeting. **(Action 5)**

**Equipped for Learning** – Jen updated us on the roll out of the Midlothian Council plan to give all children P1 and above an ipad or chromebook, to ensure equity for all children. They will use the device in school and at home. The email and data system for staff is being moved over to a new

system also. The council are also updating the school wifi bandwidth to cope with the number of devices. There are various stages in the roll out so it is looking likely that the children will receive their devices in January 2022.

**Christmas Card Fundraising** – Fiona has organised for packs to be delivered to the school in early September, with a view to getting them designed, ordered and back to families by mid November.  
**(Action 6)**

**10** **Date of next meeting** Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm on Zoom

Actions	Owner	Target Date	
24/08/2021			
1	Discuss hoodie supplier/design for 2022/2023	JH/All	Mar 2022
2	Confirm if catch-up sessions for swimming, skiing and bikeability can take place	HR	Oct 2022
3	Advertise for more bikeability trainers. Find out about purchasing bikeability training via P7 parent	FS JH	Sept 2022
4	Identify dates in the school calendar for social events (Halloween, Easter, Christmas & Summer Fayres) Enquire about using Pentland Roadhouse as alternative venue	JS RS	Sept 2022
5	Add 'Attainment' to next agenda	HR	Oct 2022