

## Roslin Primary School Parent Council

9<sup>th</sup> March, 2023

### Minutes

1. **Present:** Helen Love, Madhu Satsangi (Chair), Craig Barrowman (Treasurer), Karen Lipscombe, Nico Thomson, Evelyn Maginnis, Kat James, Mary McCulloch, Eilidh Wilson, Ellie Geen, Colin Burt, Amy Collop, Suzy Fegen, Tim Crymbal, Sarah Bezuidenhout, Darryn Bezuidenhout, Stephanie Roberts, Claire Houston (Secretary).
2. **Welcome** to all present. Apologies were noted: Emma Hutt, Mhairi Spence.
3. **Minute** of previous meeting was approved. Matters arising:
  - a. Christmas Fair (social committee); well done to the social committee for organising a successful event. A few points were noted for next year: the position of the tombolo will be changed; the stage was in the way; more helpers would be appreciated especially on the night before; the grotto assembly and dis-assembly took much longer than anticipated; more change needed or a system for buying a 'bundle' of entry, tea, Santa; maybe advance payment via ParentPay could help ease the queues on the door; individually wrapped home baking can't be sold. Some activities required a lot more effort than others – were they all worthwhile? Craig will look at the money brought in by each activity to check. Is a Friday morning an option? Teaching staff prefer a Friday afternoon; a short survey to parents shall be arranged.
  - b. School Development; two new classrooms are required and will arrive in due course; the location is problematic, due to financial implications of moving bike shelters and the grass hill. PC shall write to Fiona Robertson with our concerns. We are still waiting for information about the public consultations about the planned school extension.
  - c. Class photos – only for P1, P4 and P7; there was a survey to all parents conducted at the request of the PS, asking if they wanted class photos of all classes but it was disappointing to learn that the results were not shared at the time the survey was concluded and are now no longer available.
  - d. Family engagement calendar – There was consultation at the start of the term about which events, including nationwide charity events, are going to be celebrated within the school. These are on the family engagement calendar. Book Week Scotland was chosen by the parents over World Book Day. The family calendar will become more embedded over time. Reminders each month about upcoming events might be beneficial.
4. **Chair's Business**
  - a. Members were reminded that the role of the Parent Council is in relation to school development and vision, to help inform school decision making, and share parent views about class-wide and schoolwide matters. Matters relating to individual children are not for PC. Class Reps talk about class-wide issues.
  - b. Visibility of PC was discussed – information on the website about PC, link on newsletters to PC page of website, there are class reps, meetings are open to everyone.
5. **School Vision.** HL shared a presentation on the draft version of the School Vision. Some artwork might be nice – a competition for a logo perhaps. PC members discussed some of the wording of the Vision – 'Igniting the spark' for learning was discussed and the implication of actually lighting fires, especially with the proximity to Roslin Glen where there is a

genuine risk of wildfire; also phrases like 'high expectations' and 'quality' were discussed. 'Resilience' was an important word from parents in the recent parent consultation.

**6. Budget 23/24.**

- a. The locally-managed School budget has been reduced to £1,700 from £12,700. This is a very challenging position for the school as school running costs are substantially higher than the allocation, for example, replacing the school fire extinguishers cost £1,700. Parent Council budget can help a little bit, but it shouldn't be the expectation that PC should pay for normal school resources, like toilet paper. The PC can write letters, it was agreed to wait and write these as different issues strike.
- b. PEF is a different fund with £34,400 to be spent on narrowing the attainment gap, and is spent on things like Play Therapy, Nurture Yoga, Supporting families with the cost of the school day, pupil support assistants. There is a little extra available from that fund and a number of PC members volunteered to be involved in the participatory budgeting of this.

**7. Fundraising:** Ideas to raise some PC funds were discussed e.g. Lottery or a Race Night or a Spring Fair, presence at community events such as the village Fun Day. Parents across the School will be polled re the lottery. The Social committee will discuss further.

**8. AoCB**

- a. World Book Day Dress – It was noted that there were mixed views among P2 parents on the desirability of participating in WBD in fancy dress. The idea of a fancy dress swap in school is good in principle but perhaps fancy dress isn't a priority for families struggling financially. Similarly, the 'pay it forward' money might be better spent on wellies and warm coats as previously discussed. Pyjama day as an alternative also had pros and cons. Making some fun events financially accessible should be explored eg crazy hair day. Education Scotland recommends no fancy dress as school attendance generally fall on fancy dress days. Children have opportunities within the school curriculum to dress up eg. P7 tour guides, P3 and 4 Egyptian day. Fancy dress at the diversity themed family picnic to be explored.
- b. P7 Leavers' hoodies will be worn from the start of the session, rather than children having two different hoodies.
- c. Date of Next Meeting; 11<sup>th</sup> May