

Cornhill Parent Council

Wednesday the 13th of September 2023 6pm

Present – Mark Evans, Lyndsey Spiers, Monika Krakowska, Neil Copland, Diane Rough, Sakharat Jumshudou, Ogyuley Caroline, Gbede Comfort, Nirmal Aryal, Sumer Newpane, Kateryna Koval, Kat Paul-Bird, John Edmond, Helen Young and Heather Mackintosh

<p>1. Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>Diane welcomed everyone, and said how lovely it was to see lots of new faces. She explained how we existed to support the school and that the purpose of the meeting was to raise general issues and not anything specifically about a certain child.</p>	
<p>2. Apologies</p> <p>Vicky Young, Sian Edwards, Matthew Edwards and Hazel Cameron.</p>	
<p>3. Head Teachers Report</p> <p>The school is bursting at the seams with 420 school students and 80 nursery students. It has been a busy but positive start, seven staff members off, or soon to leave on maternity leave, with 24 teachers, this is a huge amount. We have 2 new probationers and 1 new teacher. Two new teachers are just about to start, an advertisement have lead to 70 applicants, in the past sometimes that has been 0, this is because the Shire is not hiring. The school is full and this comes with a number of challenges. There is a number of composite classes in school and this has been met positively by parents.</p> <p>There was an informal visit by the Quality Improvement Officer, it was very positive, the school has a lovely atmosphere and good interactions.</p> <p>Lots of initiatives are starting, including bike ability, for p7 to give them confidence riding, especially as they are off to secondary school. Adventure Aberdeen is also going to offer this to p5 and maybe to p6. Trips to Absafe, Peterhead prison, CYPIC Writing, the p5/6s are learning how to play a plastic trombone, Sam's Clubs, Rugby, Netball, Girls Football and Tennis. The school is very lucky to have lots of really good partners that add value to our school, RADs, Bernardo's, Active School and Adventure Aberdeen.</p> <p>RAAC concrete. The school has been inspected and the council is aware, they are going to be doing more inspections to make sure that everything is still OK.</p> <p>Strikes. Janitors, cleaning, kitchen and office staff are threatening strike action. Nothing has been finalised so Mr Evans is not able to give any update, but it is looking highly likely that the school will have to shut.</p> <p>There was a break in at the school. 5 youths got in through a bathroom window accessed via the roof. They set of hundreds of alarms and where in the school for hours, the alarm sensors went to a private security company. They messed up classrooms, got the keys from the janitors office to the Heads office, cooked pasta in the kitchen, but did not steal anything. The staff all came together first thing in the morning to clean the school ready for the children arriving. There was no permanent damage, but it is very easy for anyone</p>	

to access the roof, with no climb paint and spikes making no difference.

There has been a very positive response to old uniforms been handed in, so much so that we now have to buy more boxes to store them.

The school is planning to hold an open afternoon on the 3rd of October.

The elm trees that were diseased have now been taken out and will be replaced in October.

Pupil Equity Funding (see attached)

The Scottish government gives money to pupils from disadvantaged background to try and close the attainment gap. The school gets 5/6 times more money than school funding so it makes a significant difference. The school can spend on the money on lots of things but it does have to prove that what they spend makes a difference in the life of the children. Mr Evans firmly believes that children have to be ready to learn. Mr Evans asked if there was anything that we thought should be added to this table, attached.

As you can see a large chunk of the money is spent on a full time Bernardo's officer, who works with individuals and groups and families. He has built up positive relationships over the years.

Diane noticed that the school was paying for see-saw. An app that parents can download that helps them understand and converse with children about what they have learnt, this is especially important for younger children. The cost is about £4 per child. We agreed that the parent council would pay this.

The school has also decided not to continue paying for the JASS award. This is a very good award scheme, like a miniature Duke of Edinburgh award, but it is very time consuming, especially for the teacher.

Vision, Values and Aims (see attached)

The final draft is attached. The main point is Striving for Excellence, and this will be repeated at assemblies.

School Improvement Plan

There was not enough time to discuss this, to be added to the next meeting.

4. Treasurers Report

Vicky sent her apologies but had passed on the figures. Since the last meeting we have received £200 from the council and £306.85 from the summer disco and we have paid £800 for the bus to the p7 residential trip. Leaving in the £8,698.27.

Mrs Paul Bird has come along to our meeting to request money to replace some old and broken equipment. This is equipment that is used all the time and has died from wear and tear, every year someone comes to give all the sports equipment a safety check and the badminton stand, mats, benches etc are needing to be replaced. Mrs Paul Bird said that they can make do with what they have, and classes can share equipment. We all agreed

<p>that all children will benefit in this investment, the children love PE and all the different sports they get to try out. We agreed that we would fund £2,200 for this and gardening equipment for the gardening club.</p> <p>Mr Evans would like money to pay for buses to the panto at His Majesties Theatre. This will be a whole school visit, and one which we have not made for a while. The cost is £12.50 per child and we are very much aware that not all families will be able to afford this. Last year in an effort to keep the cost of school day down the school paid for all trips, but not sure how sustainable this will be. The school is committed to making sure that all children can attend if they want to. The parent council agreed to pay for the buses, as again the money is getting used by all children. The cost of the buses should come to about £1,500.</p> <p>If future Mr Evans would like to buy a new sound system for the hall, as the old one is breaking. This will cost a lot of money, and we think it is a good idea to mention on fundraising events that we are raising money for it. Depending on how much money we get we could also buy a projector, audio, visual and lighting. Maybe we need to think of doing a school sponsorship, as children can raise lots of money if the sponsorship form is taken into parents work, given to grandparents etc. We all agreed to raise money for this this year, it will still leave a few thousands in the bank for anything that comes up.</p> <p>Heather to look into if we still have to buy Public Entertainment Licence.</p>	<p>HM</p>
<p>5. Fundraising</p> <p>Halloween Disco, Wednesday the 1st of November 2023 This will run as normal. Heather to put out a flyer and plea for helpers. Vicky to buy juice, crisps and gift voucher. We will need more helpers as at the last disco we did not have enough.</p> <p>Christmas Fair, Thursday the 16th of November 2023 Easy to organise. Diane to contact the stall holders from last year, Heather to forward her the contact details for others that have requested more information. Classes will once again receive £15 to make something to sell and keep the profit. 16 classes, Mark to ask Nursery to decide if they want to combine classes again and £15-£60.</p> <p>Valentines Disco, Wednesday the 7th of February 2024</p> <p>Summer Fair, Saturday the 1st of June 2024 This requires a lot of people to organise, set up, man the stall and tidy afterwards. There are a lot of children in school, but very few parents volunteer to help, but it does take in a lot of money for the school. We normally get a lot of staff helping but we will need at least 30 helpers or we will have to cancel. We will put out a plea for volunteers after Christmas.</p> <p>Summer Disco, Wednesday the 12th of June 2024</p>	<p>HM & VL</p> <p>DR, HM & ME</p>
<p>6. AOCB</p> <p>A question was raised about swearing inside of class and children putting others down. Mr Evans is going to speak to the parent individually. But the teachers are always talking</p>	

<p>about the schools motto, especially in assemblies, and they do speak to an child that acts differently. Diane reminded everyone that no matter how well we bring up our children not all parents act the same and the children may just be used to hearing swearing. Any problems, please do speak to the teachers.</p> <p>Do you need a printer to complete the google classroom homework? No. All homework should be able to be completed online. The school is very willing to give paper/pencils, to any child that needs.</p> <p>No paper in the printer room, is this to cut down on paper use or lack of money? A lot of paper was been wasted as teacher were printing thing and then forgetting to collect them. This way you have to be at the printer to print, and any teacher requiring more paper can get some from the office.</p>	
<p>7. Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Wednesday the 15th of November 2023 Wednesday the 31st of January 2024 Wednesday the 15th of May 2024</p>	