

CEDARBANK SCHOOL PARENT/CARER COUNCIL

TUESDAY 23RD OCT 2018

Present – HT Ann O’Hagan, DHT Alison Lindsay, DHT Louise Queen, Jillian Cosgrove {S3}, Anna Pink {S3}, Lynsey Pollock {S2}, Valerie Silver {S2}, Gill and Kevin Doyle {S1}, Jillian Lee {S1}, Lynn McCallum{S1}
Apologies – Margaret Farquhar{S5}, Louise Disharoon {S3}, Paula McKerral {S3}.

1 Updated new S1 parent/carers on progress of new school. A date will hopefully be set soon with Jim Cameron for his next visit to meet with the Parent/Carer Council. GD suggested that some Parent/Carer Council reps should visit other special needs schools across the central belt to observe Best Practice. GD to organise visits and liaise with members of the P/CC.

It was noted that the evening’s attendees were from S1 to S3. It was hoped that future meetings would have attendees from S4- S6, especially as a feature of Parent/Carer Council is to organize the main event of the year, the Leavers’ Ball.

2 HOMEWORK

This continues to be a subject of debate. Some parent/carers expressed a wish to have reading and maths homework so that their child can continue to develop their lifelong skills. Other parent/carers want to remain with the status quo due to the stress of homework and the tiredness of the children after a school day. It was suggested that when the new school library is set up, young people in the school would be able to choose their own reading books to take home.

3 NEW LIBRARY

The launch week will be during Scottish Book Week 19th – 25th November. Mrs Smith is the BGE Literary Development Co-ordinator and responsible for the library. Some PEF funding {Pupil Equity Fund} has been made available for this, with books donated by Far From the Madding Crowd, the bookshop in Linlithgow. GD mentioned that she has a contact who set up a library in Springfield Primary School and maybe they could be available to Mrs Kerr, if so needed.

ACTION: GD or AOH to contact Mrs Smith to see whether she requires this help.

4 COMMUNICATION

School is looking at how to communicate more efficiently with parent/carers and esp at how school diaries are used (as there seems to be duplication between informing the office about appointments etc and then also informing teachers). Attendees mentioned that they like Twitter and Group Call. AOH encouraged all parents to use the school website more as it has a copy of all letters.

5 LEAVERS BALL

A date is needed for this to be booked this summer. While the P/CC can organise the logistics, parent/carers of S6 pupils leaving this year will need to be involved as this is organized solely by the P/CC, not school staff. Notes on how to organize this have been written up by previous parent/carers.

ACTION: AP to organise location, time and date of Leavers' Ball. AP to pass on information of how to organise this to GD. GD to get a list of S6 parent/carers and contact them about may be required.

6 BAG PACKING

ACTION: AOH to check with Mrs Curran as to whether a date was actually set for our next bag packing. It was suggested that we book 2 years in a row as so popular and booked so far in advance.

7 FINANCES

Fundraising arose as a main issue for the school. AL mentioned that there are many, many grants out there to access but to do so, we need to become a charity.

ACTION: AP to contact Alan Picken to find out progress on becoming a charity.

AL noted that financial help is out there for individual families but the forms are complicated and take a huge amount of time to complete.

AOH noted that the school subsidises several activities in school in order to ensure activities are accessible and it would be advantageous to receive fundraising to cover these subsidies.

ACTION: ALL to ask their social and family circle about funds we could access – or if someone has experience of fundraising, that would be an excellent first step to develop our fundraising capability.

The school is reluctant to use sponsorship events due to issues about equity.

It was mentioned that in other P/CCs, they are provided with a list of financial requirements from the Head Teacher and the group then decide / vote on what to give money to. Will money go in a general pot or will we do particular fundraising for a particular event?

ACTION: To be discussed at further meetings.

8 CAMP

AOH mentioned that there has been a very positive response to the whole school camp this year. To date, more than half the school have committed to going. AOH / AL noted that, of those who are reluctant to

go, if they change their mind nearer the time, it will still be possible for them to go - so please keep encouraging your children!

It was also noted that a child's medicine MUST be brought to school the Friday before camp (leaving on the Monday) as if medicine only comes into school on the Monday, it significantly delays departure to camp. Funding is needed to be made up as the school is subsidising some young people as well as the price being reduced for each young person.

9 PEF FUNDING

April 2018-2019. The school's PEF action plan can be found on the school website under school improvement. Some of the money has been used to fund a BGE Numeracy Development Post (Mr Stewart), a BGE Literacy Development Post (Mrs Smith) and a Learning and Teaching Coordinator (Mrs Clark).

10. PARENT/CARER COUNCIL BOARD OUTSIDE THE OFFICE

It was decided that this was not the best way to communicate with parent/carers – those attending felt social media was a better method. It was suggested that a leaflet be made up and sent to all parent/carers telling them about the Parent/Carer Council with names of people who are on it as well as things that the Parent/Carer Council hope to achieve. It was also suggested that we look at the guidelines and policy for WLC on how to run a parent/carers council. ACTION: KD to research this and feedback at next meeting.

A.G.M

AOH extended a huge thanks to Mrs Tweedie who, until June, was chair of the Parent Council since it was created a few years ago. There had not been a Parent Council for a number of years at Cedarbank School, and Mrs Tweedie played a crucial part in establishing the Parent Council at Cedarbank School. Thanks also go to the retiring members of the

Council who worked so hard to support the young people and staff.
They will all be missed greatly.

The following were voted to run the Parent/Carer Council.

CHAIR	KEVIN DOYLE
SECRETARY	GILL DOYLE
TREASURER	JILLIAN ROSE
EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR	VALERIE SILVER

Valerie Silver had previously held the post of Events Co-ordinator at Simpson's PS and volunteered to help organise events/finances for Cedarbank.

A staff representative was also needed to join the Parent Council.
ACTION: AOH

DATE OF CHRISTMAS FAYRE FRI 30TH NOVEMBER

NEXT DATE FOR PARENT COUNCIL – TBC depending on Jim Cameron's availability.