

## **Minutes from Cedarbank Parent & Carer's & Council Meeting and combined AGM Thursday 16th November 2023 6pm – 7:30pm**

### **Attendees:**

School: Carol McDonald, Mr Cox,

Parent / Carers\*: Carol Evans (Chair), Marcia Edwards (Secretary), Liesl Moore (standing down as Treasurer), Gill Doyle, Jane Marshall (family wellbeing champion), Geraldine Brewster, Nikki and Joe Cooper, Brian Evans, Johan Milne, Carolyn Smith, Ivor Marshall (New Treasurer) and Mrs Watson.

### **Student Council update**

Carol opened the meeting and introduced Jenny Doyle as the pupil rep.

Topics covered were:

- Recycling - WLC waste management visited the school and the pupil reps discussed signage on the bins as the signage on the bins has been rubbing off, the pupils suggested additional signage at eye level so that everyone can see the signs.
- Also, pupils are encouraged to take single use bottles home for recycling.
- School is supporting the Dogs Trust and the school is investigating a school pet.
- Uniforms were discussed as not all pupils are wearing their uniform (especially on PE days).

Carol thanked Jenny.

Mrs McDonald noted that it is important for the school to hear the pupils voice.

### **AGM**

Carol moved onto the AGM section of the meeting.

Chairperson - Carol was nominated by Brian Evans and seconded by Gill Doyle

Treasurer - Ivor Marshal was nominated Jane Marshal and seconded by Gill Doyle

Secretary - Marcia was nominated by Carol and seconded by Gill Doyle

### **Treasurers report:**

£1700 raised for bowling trip.

£10000 raised for school camp (details)

- 68 pupils attended the school camp.
- 13 pupils were fully funded.
- 53 pupils were partially funded.

Gill Doyle is still happy to continue to look at possible grants and funding streams.

There has been a lot of difficulty opening a bank account for the charity and so any funds raised have been deposited into the school's bank account and FoC access funds from there.

Gill Doyle is going to check with OSCR if it is ok to continue to use the school's bank account for any future grants/funding received by FoC. (We now have confirmation OSCR that we can use the school's bank account provided we have governance over the parent council spend).

As of June 2023, the remaining funds is £281.

Going forward Carol suggested having two formal meetings (one will be AGM IN September) and two informal meetings every year (parent council / school fun events). The two informal meetings / events would be in summer and at Christmas.

### **Head Teacher Update**

- Mrs McDonald started by saying that there are currently eight pupils in S1 and a ninth pupil will be joining soon.
- The criteria process for applying for a place at Cedarbank School is changing. The profile of the young people currently have more significant needs than in the past.
- Staffing: Anne McNeil, the music teacher for 20 years has retired and Mrs Louise Queen has moved to Pinewood school. These members of staff will not be replaced as the school is now in one building instead of being spread over three.
- Cedarbank had a lot of partnerships pre-covid but this changed over the pandemic. Over the last year the school have been working to re develop and establish new partnerships. The school is currently in a good position with a range of new partnerships, and a high level of engagement.
  - The school is focusing on the following:
    - Skills for life and the use of the school values -resilience, independence, confidence, respect and achievement (praise postcards).
- Skills Development focusing on digital, communication, creativity, numeracy, problem solving and self-management (skills cube). The school are working on bringing skills to life across the curriculum.
- Mrs McDonald then spoke about PEF funding. Cedarbank receives £77K of PEF funding. There is a real attempt to minimise the cost of the school day and to ensure activities do not require a cost for families. An outline was given of how the funding is spent, some examples are:
  - One day per week for a teacher to support with the hardest to reach/
  - PSW interventions with Parents and Children at school.
  - Pay for the activities delivered by Larder.
  - Pay for the activities delivered by Enable.
  - Pay for the CAMHS services in school.

Further information is available on the school website.

There is a focus on engaging families this year. Every department has been tasked with having a family learning event (s).

- The first event was a joint event with PE, Home Economics and Arts, where there was 80 people through the door, and was very successful by having tickets for different sessions, during the event.
  - 30<sup>th</sup> January there will be a digital learning event looking at social media
  - There will be a STEM event on Fri 15<sup>th</sup> March.
  - The English Department has a partnership with local library for the S2s and on Wed 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024 will invite parents and carers to come to the library.
  - On 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 Social Subjects will also be having an event: more details to follow later.
- Jane Marshall (family wellbeing champion) together with Mrs Divers (wellbeing champion) are looking at an event to develop relationships with parents, so looking at a Pamper Day in February – where pupils will be finding ways to look after the wellbeing of parents 😊.

**Upcoming school events / meetings** – chances for parents to get involved – the parent council meetings and fun days and parent / pupil events mentioned above.

**Christmas School Event** on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 1 – 3pm

- opportunity for parents to get involved – please let the school know if you can help with any of the stalls or activities at the Christmas event. Some parents volunteered.
- Aim to increase family engagement, have fun and raise funds for the school
- Will include activities this year which will be spread throughout the school including outdoors.
- Raffle
- Some Ideas / Activities this year:
  - Café will be inside and outside – toasted marshmallows.
  - Hot Dog Stand
  - Photos with Santa
  - Face painting
  - Outdoor Scavenger hunt
  - Board game station
  - Craft activities
  - Christmas Story Telling
  - The parent council / Friends of Cedarbank will have an Information area.
  - Spin wheel stall - tbc