

Sciennes PS Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 12th March 2025 @ 7pm
via MS Teams

Voting attendees:

Caroline McKellar, Chair
Emma Moulds, Co Vice Chair
Grant Catto, comms group
Claire Carr, Fundraising & Events Co-Convenor
LeeAnne Boyle, Co-Treasurer
Sean McGivern, Co-Treasurer
Sally Cowburn, Eco-Group
Belinda McGhie, P1 Rep
Susie Braham, P2 Rep
Lena Lornez, P3 Rep
Christine Knox, P6 Co- Rep
Rebecca Jo Rushdy, P6 Co-Rep
Gidona Henderson, P7 Rep
Chigdem Arslan , ASN Rep

Non-voting attendees:

Sharon McGhee, HeadTeacher
Lucy Gallagher, DHT
Carolyn Anstruther, DHT
John Armstrong, DHT
Amanda Vardy, clerk
Ryszard Nosalski
Sophie
Joel Cohen
Sarah Alexander
Phillipa
Steven Glass
Mark
Lisa Finlay
Nicky Aitkinson
Tirtho
MA

Welcome

Welcome to everyone with a brief overview of the meeting agenda.

Apologies

Gordon Stove, Football Chair
Janine Ridley, Clubs Convenor
Sally Cowburn, Eco-Group
Helen Holroyd, Fruit Group

Previous Minutes

Approved, no amendments.

Headteacher Update

Sharon McGhee

- School Improvement Update
 - GIFREC Team
 - Lots of groups working along with the school
 - Play boxes – aids communication, joint working across the school
 - Partnership Resolution – Cirenians
 - Seasons for Growth – Children experiencing loss

- o Raising children with Confidence course
- Sciences safer streets – we need more volunteers to be on the road at the start and the end of each day. If you can volunteer email admin@sciennes.edin.sch.uk
- Care Inspectorate @ St Leonard's , a new format was piloted at the nursery – Many thanks to the team
- Staff Update
 - o Organising staffing for next year
 - o Toni Carter has secured a permanent support for learning post
 - o Ms Walker (P3) on maternity leave
 - o 2x vacancies for Pupil Support Assistants – interviews 24/3/25
 - o Working on a plan for the Headteacher post.
- Library Project
 - o £10,000 grant
 - o Approx £60,000 required to fund whole project. – an update of cost to the PC asap
 - o £13,000 funds from school
 - o £15,000 from FFS
 - o Space now painted in prep for the new design implementation
 - o BookSpace
 - o Various Design options
 - o 5000 Books
 - o Pupil/Staff consultation re design preferences
 - o Reading is school priority.
 - o PC to see the Library refurbishment
 - o Library to be complete by start of next session
 - o Book donations gratefully accepted

Any further questions for the HeadTeacher to be directed to the admin@sciennes email address.

Treasurer Report

Sean McGivern

- £52,860.81 current bank balance
- Finance in place to cover the Library Project costs
- PC Spending plan will be shared on the PC website to highlight monies raised and what the money is used to fund
- Leanne has a card machine for use at events – is there a need for more of these devices?
- Please send all invoices to the official treasurers gmail account
- **Sciennesparentcouncil.com**
- sciennesparentcouncil@gmail.com

Group Updates

Playground/Roads Update

Caroline McKellar

- Meeting at the school with council officers re TRO finalisation
- Cycle path to be moved to the other side of the road ie Nature strip side
- eTRO – to close either ends of the road during school hours
- meeting in school 25/3/25 re eTRO
- Steve Burgess looking into getting funding from a local traffic improvement plan grant - £50,000
- Design for the space – multi purpose

Comms

Grant Catto

- Hub for PC Communication with the school community
- Website
- WhatsApp Group
- Swim-a-Thon details to follow asap
- sciennescomms@gmail.com

Fundraising and Events

Claire Carr

- Dates for the Diary
 - School Photos – 12/13th May
 - Summer Fair – Saturday 31st May
 - Optional P6/7 Disco – April/May TBC
 - P7 T-Towels
 - P7 Yearbook
- eCommerce site on website
- School photos
 - £10 individual
 - £15 sibling
 - £5 class
 - £1 reduction for early ordering before the Easter holidays
- Quiz Night
 - Very successful event
 - Raised £2600
- Optional P6/7 Disco
 - Looking for volunteers to run this event
- Summer Fair
 - Volunteers required
- sciennesfundraiser@gmail.com

Football

NO UPDATE

Eco Group

Caroline for Sally Cowburn

- Gardening planned for P1 area
- Planting planned with Ms Barton
- Full update at next meeting

Clubs

NO UPDATE

Fruit Group

NO UPDATE

- Call for cash donations via ParentPay

ASN

Chigdem Arslan

- WhatsApp Group set up
- Informal meetings to be arranged
- GIFREC coffee mornings held
- GIFREC meeting in April
- Inclusion report – no further update (speak with Chigdem directly if you have any questions around this matter)
- GIFREC team will be at the Parent's Evenings
- Neurodiversity Celebration Week – next week
 - Comms to be shared via WhatsApp
 - Links to website & activities
- Therapet Team
 - Dogs for Anxiety
 - Will attend regularly when the new Library is open next session

Digital Devices

Christine Knox/Rebecca Jo Rushday

- Hosted Sessions
 - 43 attended online
 - 35 attended in person
- Inclusive school policy
- Learn more about the current school policy
- Balance between school and home use of devices
- Workshops planned
- Digital skills for the future
- Physical and mental effects on children
- Misinformation can emerge
- Meeting with Sharon/Lucy
- Summary of the outcomes to be shared by Sharon/Lucy
- P6 iPads have been given out
- School will meet with children and teachers to gain information
- Some things may be passed to council level for city wide consultation
- School will enforce the Digital Policy
- Sharon
 - Thanks to Lucy/Christine/Rebecca
 - School community is tackling this as a collective
 - Collaborative working
 - Respectful space for discussion at the meetings
 - Many schools are shying away from this issue

Allergy Awareness

Susie Braham

- WhatsApp Group
- Details on PC website
- Meeting with Sharon to explore non-dairy option for milk
- School milk has a Soya Milk option now via ParentPay
- Susie to join events group to encourage inclusivity during planning of school events
- Lots of resources available via Allergy charities
 - Some of the resources will be implemented in school next term
 - Could Adrenalin be made available in school?
 - CEC existing suppliers/policies/guidelines to be looked into
 - Ms McGhee gathering information re EPI PENS in school
 - ?funding
 - All with joint consultation with the CEC
 - Balance the views of multi factor groups – parents/children/council/NHS
 - Could parents help with fact finding ie doctors/nurses/pharmacists in the parent community
 - Could this make other groups feel not included? ie children wit epilepsy etc due to the emphasis on allergies?

PARENT QUESTIONS/QUERIES

- **P2/P5 parents re Bake Sales**
 - Monthly bake sales stopped during the winter months
 - When should they take place
 - 1 bake sale each year group, each session
 - 'How to' sheet is available
 - Space sales out through the year and avoid months near Winter/Summer fairs
 - Next sale could be Friday end of term before the Spring holiday
 - PC to suggest months for the Bake Sales to plan for next session
 - Poss list of tasks for each year group to be added to the PC website

Succession Planning / Vacant Roles.

- FFS – Fundraising person required could be a current member of the Sciennes PC Fundraising group.
- Football Group Treasurer
- Co-Treasurer

sciennesparentcouncil@gmail.com

The meeting at 8.30pm with Thanks to everyone who attended and encouraged everyone to join the meetings again and get involved with the PC activities throughout the year.

Next Meeting date Thursday 8th May @7pm via MS Teams