

Sciennes PS Parent Council Meeting

Thursday 16th May 2024 @ 7pm

via MS Teams

Voting attendees:

Caroline McKellar, Chair
Grant Catto, comms group
Elinore Mc Givern, P1 Rep
Franca Macleod, P4 Rep
Gidona Henderson, P6 Rep
Barbara Hunt, P7 Rep for Shane
Claire Carr, Fundraising & Events Co-Convenor
Rachel Gregson, Fundraising & Events Co-Convenor
Christine Knox, P5 Rep
Lena Lorenz, P2 Rep
Chigdem Arslan, ASN Rep
Gordon Stove, Football Club
Josie Pilcher, Fruit Group
LeeAnne Boyle, Co-Treasurer

Non-voting attendees:

Sharon McGhee, Headteacher
Lucy Gallagher, DHT
Jenni McGrouther, Principal Teacher
Amanda Vardy, clerk
Pamela Gardiner, Business Manager
Rebecca Gerrard
Susie Braha
Joanna Lake
Afreyi
Batoul Teibi
Amy Anderson
Kate
Rebecca Jo Rushdy
Jun Chen
Gulsen Surmeli

Welcome

Caroline opened the meeting with a welcome to everyone. Caroline gave a brief overview of the meeting agenda.

Succession Planning.

- New Chair & Vice Chair required before the end of the session to facilitate a smooth handover
 - Someone has expressed interest in taking on the vice-chair role, and Caroline will meet with the individual soon.
- A new Co-Treasurer is required as soon as possible

Apologies

Leda Sharkey, vice chair
Gidona Henderson, P6 Rep

Previous Minutes

Approved with amendments

- Road as an extension to the playground is an aspiration in the future

Headteacher Update

Sharon McGhee

- Welcome to Pamela Gardiner, the new Business Manager

- Welcome back to Holly Barton, class teacher, from her maternity leave
- Staffing and class numbers will be updated in the last week of June
- Update on the 'Maggots in the Food' - full investigation carried out, and this was definitely NOT maggots in the food, all food is sealed, very high cleanliness and excellent kitchen hygiene
- Thanks to all the parents for attending the school Open Mornings; very large response and very good feedback
- Transitions
 - Transitions have begun, P7-S1
 - Wellbeing Hub to support children with different needs and all mental health challenges
 - Transition teacher who works closely with Lucy
 - Visits to school (frequency varies with the needs of the child)
 - Meetings with current pupils
 - Transitions have begun, P6- High school Modern Languages
 - Transitions have begun, Nursery to P1
- Written Progress Reports
 - Pupil Voice
 - Literacy/Numeracy/ Social Development
 - Issue in June
- Weekly video to all children is very well received
 - "It's me, Ms McGhee!"
- Swim-a-Thon – Thanks to all who supported the event
- After schools' clubs and sporting events are fabulous
- Children are very high sporting achievers
- Sciennes Cup last Saturday very well attended
- St Leonard's Nursery celebrated 85 years
- Staff Inservice Day
 - Anti-Racism Plan
 - SCOTDEC
 - 2nd school in Edinburgh
 - School improvement plan for the next 3 years
 - Friday morning – Open hall for parental consultations and ideas
- School follow-Up Inspection – well prepared for this
- Library Project
 - £10,000 grant
 - £45,000 is required to fund the whole project
 - BookSpace
 - Various Design options
 - 5000 Books
 - Pupil/Staff consultation re. design preferences
 - Reading is the school's priority for the next session
- Ms McGhee will be in post until the end of June 2025

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

Treasurer Report

LeeAnne Boyle

- £41000 in the bank
- £12500 to be paid before AGM
- Most of the money is accounted for on the spending plan
- Website sales @ £15000 since launch in September
- Meeting with Ms McGhee

- Co-Treasurer required by June – no accountancy qualification required

Group Updates

Playground Update

Caroline

- TRO Public consultation is now closed
- No objections noted
- TRO Approved
- Working hard with local councillors, a very supportive team
- No implementation date set
- Hope for changes to be implemented over the Summer holidays
- Restricted access during school hours – full road closure during those hours
- 2 part closure process
- A designer from the Council has been consulted re. the design of the TRO
- Further TRO can be submitted with the amendments when the other one is in place
- The next step is Additional TRO which would be a parallel process
- An ETRO (Experimental TRO) that requires no legislation, can also be applied for, and these last for 18 months
 - Close area from school to nature strip during school hours
 - Discuss with local councillors & chair of the travel committee
- Heras fencing to remain in place until TRO is finalized
- Physical barriers to be determined during the design process
- Pedestrians/Bike lane to be channelled along the nature strip side of the pavement
- Fire/Ambulance happy with TRO plans
- ETRO and TRO are separate processes.
- Anyone interested in joining the Playground Group, please contact Caroline

Comms

Grant Catto

NO UPDATE

Fundraising and Events

Claire Carr/Rachel Gregson

- School photos @ End of April – catch-up session soon
- P7 Tea Towels for sale, ending soon
- eCommerce site on the website
- School badges for sale - sold on ParentPay
- The devolved responsibility to year groups is working well and will be continued.
- Summer Fair 8th June
 - 4 stalls confirmed
 - Let Confirmed
 - Looking for Team Leaders to manage stalls (rota, set up, clear up)
 - Comms via WhatsApp and email
 - Donations required
 - Plant Donations to Caroline
 - Plat pots required – 30-45cm diameter
 - Kate – compost/pots – to arrange a time with Caroline
 - Lots of volunteers required
 - Room in school to store excess on the Saturday helpful
 - P6 Enterprise
 - Candyfloss – Kate and her Dad to run this stall
 - Kate has kindly offered the use of her van if required

Football

Gordon Stove

- Record Numbers @ 237 Kids - 160 boys/77 Girls
- Sciennes Girls Spring Cup – very successful, 400 girls participated, had to restrict numbers and turn applicants away this year
- P1 intro – 20 kids trying out to join the club next year
- P1 Girls Club is up and running
- P1 boys were delayed due to the coach awaiting PVG approval
- Gordon's Final Year 24/25
- Thanks for all the continuing support

Eco Group

NO UPDATE

Clubs

NO UPDATE

Fruit Group

Josie Pilcher

- Combine with a social event on a Friday morning
- £1600 current funds – will last until the end of the session
- More funds are required for the next session

ASN Update

Chigdem Arslan

- Met with Ms McGhee
- Working on the survey – an informal network for support
- Ideas for Summer Fair – meet with Claire
 - Soft start
 - Quiet space
 - Plans to parents and children with ASN to give an understanding of the day
- Christine Knox to email Chigdem re WhatsApp Group
- Support for Learning Coffee Morning last June was very helpful and informative – could this be repeated?
- Formal meeting planned for Sept/Oct

AOCB

- Friday morning Coffee Morning to give info about the roles in the Parent Council
- Time plan for the Treasurer
 - Fairs, 2 Full days
 - All small events, some time required
 - Banking on the day of the event
 - Cash floats for events
 - Counting cash
- A Class Rep for P5 (Rebecca) next year will buddy up with Christine Knox to learn the role

Succession Planning / Vacant Roles

- Leda resigning from the Vice Chair role at the end of the session; a New Vice-Chair is required
- The new Vice Chair will work with Caroline for one year before Caroline resigns from the chair role at the end of session 23/24. The Vice-Chair will take over the chair role when Caroline leaves.
- FFS – a Fundraising person required could be a current Sciennes PC Fundraising group member.
- Football Group Treasurer
- Co-Treasurer

Caroline closed the meeting at 8.30 pm with thanks to everyone who attended.

Next Meeting date AGM Wednesday 12th June in School