

## **Sciennes PS Parent Council Meeting**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024 @ 7pm

via MS Teams

### **Voting attendees:**

Caroline McKellar, Chair  
Leda Uberbacher, Vice-Chair  
Grant Catto, Comms group  
Claire Carr, Fundraising & Events Co-Convenor  
Rachel Gregson, Fundraising & Events Co-Convenor  
Helen Holroyd, Fruit Group  
LeeAnne Boyle, Co-Treasurer  
Belinda McGhie, P1 Rep  
Susie Braham, P2 Rep  
Lena Lornez, P3 Rep  
Chigdem Arslan, P4 & ASN Rep  
Franca Macleod, P5 Rep  
Christine Knox, P6 Co- Rep  
Rebecca Jo Rushdy, P6 Co-Rep  
Gidona Henderson, P7 Rep

### **Non-voting attendees:**

Sharon McGhee, HeadTeacher  
Lucy Gallagher, DHT  
Jenni McGrouther, Principal Teacher  
Amanda Vardy, clerk  
Pamela Gardiner, Business Manager  
Erica  
Karolina Crosbie  
Katie Dunlop  
Yaroslav Petrov  
Sarah Alexander  
Sean McGivern  
Steven Glass  
[Tirtho.dg@gmail](mailto:Tirtho.dg@gmail)  
Sally McFarlane  
Mark Joyce  
Sally Cowburn  
Mapnr Tyyak  
Grace Acosta  
Kirsty  
Sophie Marion de Proce  
Sudeshna Chakraborty  
DR  
Lisa Finlay  
Shantini  
Catarina Rei  
Hafsa Moeen  
Nakul Haridas  
Roisin Thamley

### **Welcome**

Caroline opened the meeting with a welcome to everyone. Caroline gave a brief overview of the meeting agenda. Caroline welcomed the new parents and gave thanks to the class and year reps who have volunteered for this session.

### **Apologies**

Gordon Stove, Football Chair  
Janine Ridley, Clubs Convenor

## Previous Minutes

Approved, no amendments.

## Headteacher Update

*Sharon McGhee*

- Curriculum Evening was very successful and thanks to all who attended.
- Current Budget Overview at Council Level – Sharon and Caroline will monitor the new budget proposals and the impact on education and will update parents as appropriate.
- Playground re-vamp complete and thanks to all the funding from PC/FFS/After-school club
- Very close Staff Team who very much appreciated everyday
- Family version of School Improvement plan will go out soon.
  - Close Leadership Team
  - Teachers lead on aspects of the improvement plan
  - 2 main priorities for this session
- Know School Community – Anti Racism Curriculum
  - Pupil Voice
  - See yourself.
  - Race
  - Inclusivity
  - Gender
  - Faith
  - Significance of individual beliefs in the school community
- Invest in Reading for Enjoyment
  - Literacy attainment affected by covid.
  - Reading as Enjoyment @43% - lowest since 2005
  - Lots of reasons attributing to the low reading figure
  - School priority to raise this and get the whole community reading.
  - Library to be re-vamped (huge investment)
  - Every child to be registered at the local library.
  - Use library regularly.
- Weekly video to all children is very well received.
  - “It’s me, Ms McGhee!”
- Library Project
  - £10,000 grant
  - £62,000 required to fund whole project.
  - BookSpace
  - Various Design options
  - 5000 Books
  - Pupil/Staff consultation re design preferences
  - Reading is school priority.
- *Caroline – Will the school accept good quality 2<sup>nd</sup> hand books as donations to the library? – yes, we could send out an ask for donations.*

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

## Treasurer Report

*LeeAnne Boyle*

- £28000 in the bank
- £22000 paid to school at end of term.
- £62000 required to fund Library revamp.

## Group Updates

### Playground Update

*Caroline*

- TRO in place since July – prohibition on vehicles
- Design team don't have capacity to do the design of the outdoor space at present – paused meantime with no future date (2-3 months before likely to know a future date)
- Road area to be a playground space.
- PC may commission a private company to carry out design task but need to check with council that this would be accepted and meet council regulations.
- Working hard with local councilors, a very supportive team
- Further TRO can be submitted with the amendments when the other one is in place.
- Next steps is Additional TRO which would be a parallel process – paused meantime
- An ETRO (Experimental TRO) which 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 councilors & chair of travel committee.
  - Requires sponsor.
- Heras fencing to remain in place.
- Physical barrier to be determined at the design process.
- Pedestrians/Bike lane to be channeled along the nature strip side of the pavement
- Disabled Parking/access required nearer to the school.
- PC/WhatsApp group/Headteacher comms to ask parents to park further away from the school to allow disabled access at drop off and pick up times.
- JRSO been recruited and will look at this issue.
- Comms will go out before the October break.
- Anyone interested in joining the Playground Group please contact Caroline.

#### **Comms**

##### *Grant Catto*

- Hub for PC Communication with the school community
- Website
- WhatsApp Group

#### **Fundraising and Events**

##### *Claire Carr/Rachel Gregson*

- Dates for the Diary
  - Winter Fair – 30<sup>th</sup> November
  - Halloween Disco – 1<sup>st</sup> November
- eCommerce site on website
- School badges for sale - sold on ParentPay
- The devolved responsibility to year groups is working well and will be continued.
  - P1 – Tea Towels
  - P2 – Bake Sales (3-4 per year)
  - P3 – Photographs
  - P4 – Halloween Disco
  - P5 – Bake Sales
  - P6 – Xmas Trees
  - P7 – Tea Towels/ Year Books
  - All years Winter/Summer Fairs
- Parents Quiz Night date TBC
- Merch – for sale at Xmas ( 3 weeks to order via ParentPay)
  - Cards
  - Mug
  - Waterbottle
  - Calendar
- [sciennesfundraiser@gmail.com](mailto:sciennesfundraiser@gmail.com)

#### **Football**

##### *Caroline (for Gordon)*

- Up & running.
- Very successful club
- Meadows Saturday mornings
- Gordon's Final Year 24/25
- Jim Sorrel to succeed Gordon as Chair – handover planned.
- Thanks for all the continuing support.

### **Eco Group**

**NO UPDATE (Caroline to follow up and report at next meeting)**

### **Clubs**

*Grant (for Janine)*

- All clubs up and running.
- Monday am Multisport may change to football as only 2 members at present and football club full on Tuesday am.
- Looking for a dance instructor
- Some space remains in PC clubs.

### **Fruit Group**

*Helen Holroyd*

- Large fruit platters of all types of fruits
- Delivered to each class every Friday by P7 pupils.
- 40 parents on WhatsApp group
- 6-12 parents weekly
- Looking to recruit new parents from the younger classes for succession planning.
- More funds required – donate via ParentPay
- Publicity drives to show what is produced.
  - Photos on WhatsApp

### **ASN Update**

*Arslan Chigden*

- Working on survey – informal network for support
- Survey to be distributed soon.
- WhatsApp Group
- Council meetings start next week – all schools and ASN reps.
- Formal meeting planned for Sept/Oct – dates TBC.
- Informal meetings to be arranged following school survey results.

### **PARENT QUESTIONS/QUERIES**

- **P6 Christine Knox - SMART PHONE POLICY**
  - *Concern about access to smart phones*
  - *Current guidance is kids can bring smart phones to school, but they must remain off during the school day.*
  - *Is it possible to ban smart phones in school?*
- *Rachel*
  - *JGPS has App blocker so no social media can be accessed around the school area.*
- *Grant*
  - *Source for bullying out with the school grounds and out with school hours.*
  - *Kids can't switch off.*
- *Leda*
  - *No need for phones in school*
- *Sharon*
  - *Ensure all parents views are supported.*

- o *Ensure all children feel safe and protected.*
- o *To make a policy change or implementation*
  - *What are we concerned about?*
  - *Look at the problem from an education perspective.*
  - *Is there a safe way to mediate.*
- o *Form a group of interested people.*
- o *Look at the current council policy/process.*
- o *Look at the learning community – possibility of developing a combined policy for all hub schools.*
- o *Fine line between parental responsibility/school/education*
- o *Arrange a meeting after the October Mid Term break.*
- o *Gather parental/school community views.*
- o *All perspectives must be considered.*
- o *Any concerns Lucy/Sharon have a sage-guarding responsibility out of school as well as in school.*
- o *Reminder to pupils of safe use of electronic/smart devices*
- o *Very emotive topic*
- o *Global issue*
- **P3 READING**
  - o Starts next week.
- **P7 TRANSITION**
  - o Email to JHGS re transition Friday/Monday next week.
- **PUPIL PROGRESS MEETINGS**
  - o 1 week early due to clash with P7 residential to Lagganlia to give teachers a break between both events.
  - o Teachers work 195 hours more than teaching time and this is to allow for a spread of this time.
- **ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL BUILDING IN THE MORNING**
  - o Doors open @ 0848.
  - o P5 east door
  - o P3 enter 2<sup>nd</sup> now due to congestion when the doors open
  - o Staggered entry for safety
- **AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB ACCESS TO THE LIBRARY**
  - o Library has been offered to the after-school club
  - o Over to the convenors of the after-school club now

#### **AOCB**

- Leda steps down as vice chair after this meeting
- 2 volunteers to take on role as co-vice chairs.
  - o Emma Mould / Beccy Carter

#### **VOTING IN OF ROLE OF CO-VICE CHAIR**

*Emma Mould & Beccy Carter proposed by Caroline, seconded by LeeAnne.*

- Susie B – Food Allergies family group, inclusion for kids with food allergies/intolerances – asking for help with promotion via PC – Grant to publish blog via WhatsApp and Website
- Sharon – Square & Crescent – Huge thanks to Billy and Darren. Great relationship with the school and have provided lots of supplies and carried out lots of minor repairs the school has been waiting for. Amazing team and can't give enough thanks.

#### **Succession Planning / Vacant Roles.**

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

Caroline closed 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 TBC***