



PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Friday 24 April 2015

Place: Hillhead Primary School

Attendees: Ruth Downes (Chair), Kate Smith (minutes), Senga Minto, Colin Tsang, Astrid Azurdia, Sandra Huettenbuegel, Emma Benzie, Anke Hilt, Isolde Tod, Amanda Buchanan, Margaret M., Julia Boswell,

Andrew Robson (Depute), Francis Donaghy (Headteacher)

Apologies: Susie Haigh, Rachel Lowther, Lisa Crampin, Anne Hansen, Kirsty Mathieson, Andrea Fisher, Agnieszka Lampart.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Conversion of underground car park and possible new options
 - a. Action taken since last meeting
 - b. Head teacher update on recent developments
3. School disco update (Amanda)
4. Spring fair update (Ruth/Susie)
5. Other feedback on actions from meeting 3rd March
 - a. Playground toys spend
 - b. Grant application
 - c. Gibson Street Gala
 - d. FGM
 - e. Art trolleys/sinks
 - f. Bags – P7 project design?
6. Uniform
 - a. Designated place for second hand uniform boxes near social space
 - b. Still do second hand?
7. Head Teacher's update
8. AOB
 - a. After school care enquiries
 - b. Breakfast club consultation

MINUTES

1) Welcome and Introductions

Ruth Downes welcomed all present.

2) Conversion of underground car park/other options

Francis Donaghy (FD) took those present to visit social space and Courtyard playground. New proposal is to enclose the covered area and wide exit from social space to make a new classroom/GP space. Proposal also includes some improvements to playground space to compensate for loss of covered area and improve general access of children to the full playground. These include terracing the slope behind grassy knoll, putting astro turf below the glass bridge, improving the sloped area next to the end classroom at Otago Street gate and some improvements to Courtyard playground and around pirate ship.

FD also reported other discussion options which had been raised with Council officials though not approved as deemed too expensive. These included a cover to be built over the 'stadium seats' next to the steps into the courtyard (lower school) playground, and for the hill below the wooded area to be opened up for use, possibly with a circular pathway to allow children to walk around this area. A proposal to build a classroom in the social space with access also from the upper floor was rejected on grounds of technical issues, cost and timescale.

Concerns raised by PC members/attendees included:

- Building another classroom-sized space may leave the school open to further overcrowding if the new space is taken over as a classroom.
- Loss of the packed lunch space – 'robbing Peter to pay Paul'
- The likelihood of GCC to deliver on this proposal at all, and to deliver to a reasonable spec, rather than a reduced/compromised offering.

The meeting agreed to request the GCC to consider the following other main points as practical solutions to the infrastructure problems.

- Enclosing the outdoor classroom to offer further usable breakout space and increase use of this space
- Covering the stadium steps to compensate for the loss of the covered area.
- Change position of the black sliding gate to allow better access to the wooded area
- Improved wifi in all teaching areas.

We will also ask them for guarantees on holding the cap on P1 entry and on the overall roll of the school; FD confirmed that the cap of 75 is not yet certain, as appeals are still in progress.

In connection with the possible continued use of the media suite by two classes, the issue of composites and IT provision were discussed.

FD said a short-term (one year) composite class is possible next year, although this depends on stability in numbers between now and June as this option would not be possible if numbers increase in these year groups by very much more. This could also be affected by appeals currently taking place, and the possibility of families requesting places higher up the school (the cap would apply only to P1, if it is enforced at all). The

composite would most likely be a P2/P3 mix, with children returning to their original classes after one year.

FD raised possibility that IT suite may not be reinstated as a fixed resource, even if the space itself is freed up – it's possible that the school might choose to use this space as an overflow gym/dance space instead. The current use of ipads and mobile laptop units works well in some respects but is restricted due to the patchy wifi coverage in the teaching block which still requires further upgrading.

Decisions / Actions	Person to action
RD to write to GCC to clarify what has been agreed and raise concerns and other options	Ruth

3) School disco update

The P5-6 disco is planned for Thursday 30 April. Plans are moving forward with this and 50 tickets have been sold so far. Doodle poll for helpers will be going out soon.

4) Summer fair update

Subgroup is moving forward with the planning of this event scheduled for Saturday 16 May. GCC Community letting not yet provided full cost of let but could be quite expensive. Doodle poll will also be organised to bring in volunteers for this event.

Decisions / Votes	Person to action
Contact Community Letting and see of concessionary rate possible	Colin Tsang
Continue with organisation	Summer fair sub group

5) Update on other actions

PC Spending

Extra playground toys and storage boxes for lunch boxes have been bought and are in use. Recycled yoga mats donated also now in use in playground.

Grant applications for £5000 (Area Grant) and £7500 (Awards for All) for covered outdoor eating area are progressing well.

Gibson Street Gala

The Gala will include an art competition; all our kids can enter, one winner per class. Final winners will have their work shown in at the Gala and subsequently in a local gallery.

FGM

Andrew updated on FGM; further update on child protection for staff will take place in the summer; this will include work on child sexual exploitation.

Andrew has been in contact with the Women’s Support Group; they have offered to advise and guide the school. This could mean a talk, or a screening of a DVD addressing this issue; could also include a screening and panel discussion of the issue with the parent forum. This could coincide with a staff training session.

Fundraising

Bags/teatowels not happening in time for the Spring Fair; but we may consider this again later in the year; possibly with designs from P7s as a ‘leavers’ project.

Second hand uniform

We will continue with sales – it was agreed that second hand options were good for all families’ budgets and for the environment. FD to help find a more easily accessible place to store second hand uniform.

Art trollies

FD agreed that 2-3 art trollies would be useful for the school.

Decisions / Votes	Person to action
Propose and agree best options for art trollies to school	Ruth Downes/Rachel Lowther

9) Head Teacher report

No Head Teacher report was given at this meeting as most key issues had already been discussed.

10) AOB

Breakfast club

GCC are consulting on the future of breakfast clubs; school will circulate a letter via schoolbags and PC will circulate through email list.

After school care

This issue continues to be raised by parents as a matter of concern. The suggestion was made that we should form a subgroup on after school care to explore any ways of increasing provision.

Decisions / Actions	Person to action
After school care to be put on agenda for next PC meeting	Ruth/Susie
Breakfast club consultation to be circulated on PC email list	Ruth

Ruth Downes offered thanks to everyone for attending.

The constitution states that a third of PC members shall form a quorum at PC meetings and this was easily met.