



HILLHEAD PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 3 MARCH 2014

The Parent Forum meeting of 24th February was well attended with more than 100 parents there. We now have over 270 names on our email mailing list (if you want to join, please email us at hillheadprimaryparentcouncil@gmail.com). There was a clear will among those present to deal with the problems that the school is currently facing.

<u>Playground</u>	<u>Action</u>
<p>At the meeting in the City Chambers on 24 February, the Council proposed to remove the grassy knoll in the upper school playground and pave the area over. This was to be done for August 2014 at the latest.</p> <p>PC felt that it would be better to have a more creative solution than just a plain concrete playground and suggested that the Council could cost a couple of options in dialogue with the school and the children. This could include a willow tunnel, or going back to the Grounds for Learning report to consider other options.</p>	Ruth Downes
<p>Andrea and Colin will draw up some ideas and meet with the Pupil Council to see what they would like for the playground.</p> <p>If we can get some commitment from the Council to what we want then we would be willing to help fundraise for it.</p>	Andrea Fisher/Colin Tsang

<u>Media response</u>	<u>Action</u>
<p>Catriona Stewart of The Herald has approached the PC about doing a story on the space issues at the school.</p> <p>PC decided that we needed to be sure about our campaign and all the key legislative and regulatory facts before talking to the press. It is important that we get media coverage as right as possible and time it well. Ruth will speak to Catriona and say that we need to sort out our strategy with the Council first before we go to the newspapers and television.</p>	RD

<u>Parent support</u>	<u>Action</u>
Ruth is going to email Parent Forum group to see if there are parents with landscape gardening, architectural or building expertise who	RD

might be able to advise on possible solutions.	
Ruth will also speak to David McLavin to see what advice he has about moving forward with regards to our use of the media.	RD
Kate Temple, who is both a parent and a lawyer, could also be consulted on the legal position of the school.	RD

<u>Space Issues in School</u>	<u>Action</u>
<p>The PC discussed and agreed that the Council's current solution will not be a guarantee of longer term solutions to the space problems because of the uncertainties relating to falls in roll numbers.</p> <p>Given that the Council appear to have ruled out buying the house, the only other option for creating more space which does not take away other space (eg. in playground) is to build on top of the Early Years Centre. It was felt that the creation of this additional space would give the school a permanent solution to the overcrowding problem and provide sufficient space for all the educational requirements of the Curriculum for Excellence and what the school itself wants to be able to deliver to the children.</p> <p>Legal requirements which need to be met include the 2 hours of gym per week per child (which will not be possible with the removal of the media suite) and toilet provision.</p> <p>Ruth to draft a letter to the Council on behalf of the Parent Council and Parent Forum asking for continued discussion on investment solutions to the space issues.</p>	RD
Rachel and Susie to liaise on taking photos to illustrate our concerns. These could potentially be used as postcards which the children can write on with their thoughts/comments about the lack of space.	Rachel Lowther/Susie Haigh
Claire to draft a pro forma letter for parents to send to the Council/Councillors/MSPs to demand action.	Claire Slocombe
Concern at the lack regard by the Council for the professional opinion and input of Francis Donaghy and his management and teaching team was noted. Ruth Downes will write to the Council about this disrespect and ask for the greater involvement of the school's management in working through the problems and issues relating to space.	Ruth Downes

<u>Gibson Street Gala</u>	<u>Action</u>
<p>The Gibson Street Gala is going ahead on Sunday 1 June.</p> <p>Julia Boswell to obtain a quote for letting the gym/dining room and ask if we could get discount/free use of it for the community event.</p>	JB