

Riverside PS Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 23/9/21

Present:

Kathryn Anderson (Vice Chair)

Jenny Robertson (Vice Chair)

Kirsty Watson (Treasurer)

Laura Livesey

Sarah Thomas

Sarah McMaster

Stacey CW

Arlene

Michelle MacPhee

Debbie McLeod

Apologies:

Josephine Amos (Chair), Kirsty Neilson, Amanda Fox, Mhairi, Deepa

1. Welcome and Introductions

Kathryn welcomed everyone to the meeting and each person present introduced themselves. Apologies were given as listed above.

Michelle explained that Chrissie Gemmell will be taking over Kirstin Mitchell's role from next meeting.

2. School Update

Michelle updated that the children have settled very well since the beginning of the session, especially the new P1s.

Some covid mitigations have remained and will do until at least after the Oct holidays. There has recently been a slight change with regards to communication around positive cases. There are now no 'Warn and Inform' letters and all staff and children in a class with a positive case will be informed as low level contacts. Public Health will then contact close contacts who have had intimate and prolonged contact.

The children have begun to access our lunch hall again. Currently the youngest pupils go last, so as not to rush them. It has been a big transition for the P1s, 2s and 3s who have had no access or limited access to using the lunch hall in the past. Feedback has been gathered from

the pupils and suggestions taken on board, where possible. There are two spaces being used as staff rooms due to the staff numbers.

Class and SLT welcome meetings have gone out virtually to parents.

PE is still outside for now but hoping to move to inside PE once the 1 metre distancing is removed.

There is a huge focus on accelerated learning in literacy and numeracy with a timetable of targeted interventions.

Outdoor renovations in the playground are continuing. Michelle thanked the Parent Council for the funds for the new benches. The outdoor classroom has been built (£5000 for outdoor classroom, £3000 for turfing) and the activity trail should be installed during the Oct holidays.

An artist will be working with children in school to create a mural around the nature playground.

We have a number of different focus weeks within school:

Wk beg – 27th Sept – Bike to School Week and Maths Week Scotland

- 4th Oct – Challenge Poverty Week
- 1st Nov – COP26
- Nov – Children in Need

Mrs Bleakley and Mrs Wiik are leading on COP26 for the school. There is a banner to challenge others to make one change. Michelle asked the parent council if anyone would be willing to take the banner to different sites during the Oct holidays to challenge others to make a change.

Parents evening dates are going out soon. These will either be virtual or via phone call. Hopefully face to face meetings will be able to resume from March. There are also a number of parent information sessions available to support parents with Google Classroom, Google Guardian, etc. Michelle asked Kathryn to share this info on the Parent Council FB page.

Michelle shared a fundraising wishlist with the Parent Council. This includes £986 for the Heinemann Active Maths programme and approx. £3000 for the tarmacking of the nature playground.

3. Financial Update

Kirsty gave a run through of the current finances including fundraising and expenditure. Michelle applauded RAPP for the amount of funds raised during the year and the impact for the school. Kathryn suggested that the school community be made aware of the amount of money raised and how this has been used. Kathryn would also like to thank the parent body for their contributions.

A lot of the money for the activity trail has had to be spent on ground works and soft matting for underneath.

4. Fundraising Ideas

The Parent Council are aiming to plan a non-event fundraiser by the end of Sept. A discussion took place around the best way to advertise and collect the money. A decision was taken for Laura or Josephine to set up a Just Giving page for the event.

A discussion around whether the school should participate in Christmas card project. Michelle asked if the cards could be completed as part of home learning, as there was mainly a worry around how to efficiently get a copy of the child's card with the unique order code to their parents/families. It was agreed that Michelle would take the idea back to school staff and ask for their input. It was also suggested that discussions around this type of project take place at the end of current session in preparation for hitting the ground running at the start of the next session.

Plans for Halloween are underway. It is hoped that classes can have Halloween discos in their classes, as with last session. Need to wait until Scottish Government provides an update to support the planning of this.

5. AOCB

It was agreed that RAPP should apply for a license for raffles.

School calendar to be shared with RAPP to ensure that fundraising event organised by the school are communicated in advance.

A discussion took place around how children travel to and from Riverside PS. There has generally been a great deal of frustration around trying to make changes within the local area with regards to traffic and safer travel. Mrs McLeod explained that this is something that our JRSO group continues to focus on and that the group is looking to develop a parking pledge for parents to sign up to. Riverside PS has also been identified as a school to be supported to use the new WOW tracker for gathering information on how pupils travel to and from school. The aim of this project is to bring together the council, local residents and the school to tackle parking, traffic and active travel issues.

Finally, it was agreed that the Zoom details for the next meeting should be shared on the Parent Council FB page.

Date of next meeting: 28th of October 2021

