

Harlaw Parent Council Meeting

16/09/21

4.30pm on Teams

<u>Agenda Item</u>	
1. <u>Welcome and Apologies</u>	Apologies - Mary Michie, Rachael Price and Ruth Adair. Thank you and welcome for coming.
2. <u>Action plan</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Careers Fayre & International Fayre• Rag bag: after uniform event there was uniform that we could not give away to be worn. Looking into recycling bin in playground, information was forwarded to Mr McLaren and happy to proceed with collection point in the playground. Decision to be made about where it is to go.• Promotion of easy fundraising – not done yet, we will look at readvertising it again.• FP's details to be updated – this has been completed.• HOP banner being displayed at school – this is parked for now as possible redesign to be completed
3. <u>Minutes and matters</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water bottles – purchased and given to S1 pupils.• Chromebooks –all S6 pupils were handed back and we now have enough for every pupil in Harlaw. All of S2 are getting them this week and then looking at recycled ones from primaries for giving to S1's. Looking for everyone will have one by the September long weekend.• Litter pick – kits have been sourced and will be delivered on 4th October for 2 weeks. There will be a rota for during PSE time for S1-S3. Looking to publicise to the community so they are aware of what pupils are doing. The litter pick will also take place in the playground.• At a forum meeting it was mentioned about a dyslexia champion – the information isn't out yet but will follow. <p>Minutes Approved: Lorraine McCoig Minutes Seconded: Veronica Strachan</p>
4. <u>Election</u>	Election of new member: Rachael Price Approved: Veronica Strachan Seconded: Katherine Anderson
5. <u>Chair Update</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Over the holidays lots of work has been carried out with the HOP project. Company came in and cleaned the 3 areas within the playground. The work carried out was amazing. Benches have

been put into the grass playground and bespoke seating put into the quads. Thank you to parents for volunteering to paint them.

- Currently looking at items such as planters to be put in. Garthdee allotments are keen to help. If anyone has any pallets please drop to Catriona and these will be passed on. A letter has been delivered to B&Q for their community fund and we will approach Dobbies in 2022.
- Looking at artificial grass for the non-grassy playground. Mr McLaren showed them the area today. Budget was advised and price will be given soon.
- Ruth had asked Mr McIntyre about art work for the playground. We will feedback on this at next meeting.

Thank you to all the parent helpers who came and put the benches together. There were 30 of them and your help is appreciated. Also, thank you to Exodus Group for their time given from staff to help.

- Hoping to build more benches Wednesday 29th September. Please get in touch if you are available to help.
- We attended the first Aberdeen Parent Council Forum meeting for the new academic year. Discussions around low vacancy numbers in Aberdeen which is encouraging. Active Schools activities have resumed across this city. Training is also back on for Parent Councils. Lorraine has signed up to do the financial training.
- Covid Education Recovery meetings have resumed. If any issues please forward them to Catriona.
- Catriona has volunteered to be the 2nd rep for the city, along side Rachael. The AGM is this Wednesday.

Grants update :

Asda Green tokens – vote online and we are currently in the lead with 75% which is great. Thank you to everyone who has voted. It closes on 30th October so please keep voting.

1. Screwfix – applications reopen in November
2. Tesco – 18month wait for results
3. Lang Foundation - £1000 given – we need to send pictures of evidence for this
4. CNOOC – awaiting results - **emma to chase
5. Arnold Clark – donation for summer tombola
6. Cruach Trust – Missed the deadline for this.
7. Corra Foundation – applying to this

	<p>8. Budge Foundation -applying to this</p> <p>Thank you to Emma for doing this.</p>
<p>6. <u>Treasurer Report</u></p>	<p>We have £3650.21 in the Parent Council account. Made a surplus of £330.40 We have taken in £9962.47 and spent £9632.30.</p> <p>If you are interested in seeing the accounts please contact Catriona.</p>
<p>7. <u>Fundraising update</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last year we raised almost £15k. This is a great effort from everyone. Just Giving, fundraising events, recycling uniform, Easy Fundraising which have all been successful. Ruth also sent letters to local businesses - with a great response. • FP donation of £1k • £2.6k in Just Giving account and just under £500 in Easy Fundraising • Will continue fundraising activities – more business letters, grants, rag bag, tombola (with a twist), auction of skills <p>If anyone has a skill to contribute please contact Catriona or Angie.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The money has been spent on cleaning the areas. The company has asked for some before and after pictures to promote his business. Following cleaning, the benches have been put in place. It is looking fantastic and gives the school more usable space. <p>Parental Question <i>Uniform recycling event again soon?</i> Yes, we feel it's a great event to hold for the school community.</p>
<p>8. <u>School update</u></p>	<p>HOP Project – We continue to make improvements to our playground for the pupils and to help within the community. Big thank you from the school to the parents and Parent Council for helping this. Largest area needs extra work to repair the tarmac, It is happening but just takes time.</p> <p>New Term - more recognised structure is now back in place with one break, one lunch and registration. Canteen is working well also.</p> <p>School role is over 1000 and continues to grow which is great news. The year groups are full apart from S1. The numbers are up in S4, and S5 & S6 have also risen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have implemented our new timetable structure. Given the pace of change mixed with complciations arising form the pandemic/lockdown etc, there have been some challenges. The ambitious structural change had helpedus to identify issues but we have achieved it together. One of the biggest frustrations for some centred around the August start, we all recognise that we would prefer a timetable start prior to the summer holidays.

	<p>Parent Council wishes to thank staff for all their hard work with the timetable restructure, it is very much appreciated.</p> <p>Feedback from pupils is that, anecdotally, 99% are happy with their timetable choices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism - Increase in vandalism within school building with some severe damage sustained at a significant cost to the school. Toilets have been affected most. <p>Parental Question: <i>Is there anything parents can do to help with this issue?</i></p> <p>Mr McLaren would like to work with the Parent Council to draft a letter to parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police advice has been given that all anti-social behaviour in the community should be reported to them. Members of public are only able to photo/ video the young people if they are causing an offence and pass to the police. Should not be passing to school. • Uniform – this has been successful. Has brought to light those who are struggling to buy uniform. Mr McLaren asked if he is able to dip into the recycled uniform to help families. PC happy to support this. • SQA update – we have had news of priority appeals. Grading has been upheld by SQA which is reassuring that staff have applied the national standard well. The rest of the appeals will be known on 19th October. Update to follow. • Staffing- recruited a Design Technology and a Geography teacher – both permanent members of staff - Vacancies – English teacher, Science teacher as Mrs Rafferty is moving to a different school, Physics application currently in process. - Recruiting - pupil support team – 4 x PSA currently being recruited. PT guidance post for maternity cover also going up. DHT will be advertised later in year. School allocated 2 probationers – 1 in Science and one in Art and are settling in well. • Building works- delighted with work at front of school and working hard to encourage pupils to use it. Barriers are installed and a decrease in traffic has been noticed. Works in October holidays to be carried out within the school classrooms. An art classroom will be turned into a fabric room also. Toilets remain an area of concern. Working hard with ACC, however it requires water to be switched off when school is closed. Therefore, Summer holidays are the best time. Due to COVID closures it has
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	<p>caused more issues. Mr McLaren has been assured it will be completed this summer.</p> <p>Parental Question: <i>Can there been clarity to pupils to raise awareness what toilet facilities are in the school, especially if there is a closure?</i> Yes, this could be brought to light in form class to the pupils. Action has been taken to communicate with pupils already.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking to get more toilet blocks. This is being looked at with the architect. • Looking to start a conversation about CCTV within the school with the Parent Council. We are one of the small amount of schools who don't have this installed and Mr McLaren is looking to seek opinions on this. Has previously been discussed and the Parent Council were keen to proceed. Looking at a consultation for parents and pupils about this. <p>Senior Prefects – rigorous process for interview. Allowed all candidates to demonstrate range of skills and pupils watched their presentations in PSE classes. Big thank you to Angie who joined the interview panel. Standard was very high and panel were very impressed. Senior 6 prefects were chose; 2 head perfects and 4 deputes.</p> <p>Congratulations from the Parent Council to those who were successful and to all applicants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra-Curricular Activities - Tom Whyte (PT of Wider Achievement) looking at wider curriculum offers. 7 clubs are up at running at this time. DofE is starting back after the Oct Holiday. They are working through the backlog of this and then look at getting new youngsters involved. Risk assessments are going through and looking at opportunities for both online and in person. Quad will be used for lunch clubs which is great news. Also working with Lauren Lawson S1 guidance teacher for clubs for these pupils at lunch time.
<p>9. <u>Former Pupil Update</u></p>	<p>Apologies from Mary Michie</p>
<p>10. <u>AOB</u></p>	<p>Nothing discussed</p>
<p>11. <u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p>	<p>Provisional date of 11th November but this will depend on NPFS meeting</p>