

## **Strathblane Primary School Parents' Council AGM 4/10/11**

**Present:** Derek Fabel, Simon Jones, Lesley- Anne Livesey, Sandra Logan, Elaine Holmes, Mandy Malcomson, Alan Campbell, Jenny Park, Beate Beck-Schwann, Robin Hoyle, Anne Spencer, Sheena Mylles, Wendy Hamilton, Andy Thomson.

### **Guests:**

Lesley-Anne Livesey -

Derek Fabel - Fundraising Committee

Mandy opened the meeting. She explained the role of the PC and that it currently had 7 members.

**Apologies** - Steven McCooey, Annabel Sharp, Rachel Allen, Anne Scott.

- Previous minutes were agreed. Mandy raised the point again about the money raised that has to be distributed to other groups. It could be up to £900 (£15 per each of 42 groups). If some groups decline the money, then the PC can retain it. It was felt that this money was an incentive for local groups to participate in the summer fair and should be offered next Summer Fair.
- Wendy Hamilton will resign as Minute Taker. This is a paid role and will be advertised in the school newsletter.
- The current PC introduced themselves.
- For constitutional purposes, the roles of the PC must be nominated and seconded:
  1. Chair - Mandy and Alan will co-chair. Wendy Hamilton proposed. Robin Hoyle seconded.
  2. Treasurer - Elaine Holmes. Robin Hoyle proposed. Andy Thomson seconded.
  3. Funding Officer - Derek Fabel (co-opted from fundraising committee). Mandy proposed. Beate Beck-Schwann seconded.

Andy Thomson explained that the role of funding officer had not been filled before. It was discussed whether this role should be a member of the PC or the Fundraising committee. Derek stressed that having a PC member on the fundraising committee would be invaluable. It was agreed that both PC and fundraisers would be best placed to share a meeting night. The fundraisers would be 30mins before the PC meeting. It would help generate volunteers and be easier for parents to attend one meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- Elaine handed out reports. She noted that this total shows balance before the last whiteboard was purchased. Also, potentially £900 will

be deducted to issue to community groups for participation in Summer Fair. Sandra foresaw that the next big spend would be Christmas. The accounts have been sent for auditing. The importance of retaining receipts was mentioned. Wendy Barrett is still the authorised signatory, so this would have to be changed.

### **School Update** (see separate sheet)

- Mandy asked if music provision would continue. At present it is every two weeks. Sandra mentioned that Mrs Brown is teaching the recorder and this would continue at least until the end of the year.
- Andy Thomson asked how the composite classes were working. Sandra stated that the teachers were working very closely with each other in this respect. Mandy suggested that composite classes be a topic for a future meeting.
- Lesley-Anne Livesey introduced herself and explained her role as Parental Involvement Officer. There will be a meeting on 3 Nov for the National parent forum for Scotland. An opportunity for two PC members to attend and discuss any issues. Lesley-Anne mentioned the merger and service-sharing of Stirling and Clackmannanshire councils. Sandra pointed out that this had been reported to parents last year and would have no impact on the school at ground level.
- Simon asked if there were any local cluster Parent Forums - Lesley will investigate and inform the PC. He asked if there was anywhere that parents could access info. Parentzone was suggested by Sandra as a good overview of education.

### **Fundraisers**

- Derek explained the role of the fundraisers. As previously mentioned, the PC and fundraisers' meetings will merge. The main organiser of the Summer Fair is stepping down, so it is essential that a replacement is found. The first fair raised £4000 and this has escalated each year since. The money raised will be spent on capital investments. Derek stressed that what is needed is people to organise the events.
- For example, the Halloween Disco requires 10 volunteers per disco.
- The Christmas Fair raises over £1000 but again needs volunteers to run it.
- Beate explained that small groups was a much easier way of working. Her concern was that there was no-one to drive the Christmas or the Summer Fair.
- Next Fundraisers' meeting is 18<sup>th</sup> Oct.

- Sandra suggested it be on the agenda before the next meeting.
- Anne suggested that continuity with the Summer Fair would be good. Beate explained that discussion had taken place already on this subject.
- Simon suggested that the PC could approach parents at the Parents' Meetings in Nov.
- Nicky offered to chat to the P1 parents about the PC.
- Mandy will have a list of Parent Liaison people next week.

### **Mandy read out a list of PC priorities**

- Supporting learning
- Homework working group
- School grounds and improvements
- Traci and Steven are willing to continue sports
- Christine will continue with netball
- Chatterbooks still runs each month
- Gardening Club is still going strong
- Building a parent forum (emphasis is communication)
- Work towards a paperless school

Mandy suggested that the main focus be improving the school grounds.

### **AOCB**

- A decision was made that each class can decide what to buy for wet playtime games. It was felt that the toys and games needed replenished.
- Suggestions were made that there should be school waterproofs provided (currently there is a small supply of waterproofs in the nursery). However, it would be very costly. Anne explained that children sometimes come to school with no jackets.

### **Funding Requests**

- Whiteboards
- Willow tunnel
- It was felt by the meeting that the parents had bought a large amount of whiteboards. Stirling council should be made aware of this.
- Andy felt that parents were paying to give the children the best facilities.
- There was a discussion with regards to the Christmas parties and

presents. Some people felt that it was all costly. Sandra felt that it was an important time of year and should go ahead regardless. She said that it requires a lot of organising - best done by one person. The meeting agreed that the parties should be funded.

- Robin Hoyle told of a £200 grant that was available if the school ran a Science Week. This may clash with school projects but it could be discussed at a later date.

- Alan Campbell will advertise TESCO vouchers and Nestle box tops for books on the PC and community websites to encourage parents to collect them.

- Date of next meeting 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011 7.15pm