Houston Primary School Council

AGM

14th September 2020

Minutes

In attendance - see end of minutes (clipped from zoom participants):

Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting particularly all the new P1 parents and any new members.

1.  Approval of minutes

 These were approved.

2.  Chairman’s report

Chairman extended thanks on behalf of the PTA to the staff at HPS for the seamless transition back to school at a difficult time. Issues related to crowding around entrances seem to have been resolved.

3. Treasurer’s Report

 Treasure will pass a cheque for £5000, 50% of previous years due to lockdown. This also keeps some funds in the account. A zoom subscription was paid for alongside gifts for P7s and membership of PTA association. Easy fundraising was only source of income and parents were encouraged to sign up. Cheryl extended a willingness to help the new treasurer transition onto the role as this is her final year in the role.

4.  Uniform Report

P7 hoodies remained a good seller last year and this year. Substantial track suit order 3 times previous years with £4600 raised. Move to online banking great success. £16514 in new uniform sales through school wear made easy. From this we earn a percentage. Online profits for all sales means a cheque for £1500 will be given to Mrs Murray. Current tracksuits are now out of production; an alternative has been sourced which is cheaper than the previous version. This would be assessed for suitability.

5.  Events Committee Report

Nothing to report for obvious reasons. A lottery scheme would be investigated as other schools in the authority are planning to run this.

6. Book Club Report

Book shop has been suspended due to Covid. Running the stall would be too much of a challenge due to the restrictions the school is under.

 7.  Head Teacher’s Report (text provided by Mrs Murray)

Thank you to Nicki Barrett and the entire council team who continue to give of their time and efforts for the good of all children at HPS. Everyone beavers away in their own ‘corner’ and collectively the support of the team is far reaching across our school.

Funds raised last year supported;

Renewal of subscription with Renaissance Learning – Acc Reader

Supports the purchasing of Arts and Crafts materials

Purchasing of IT equipment – 25 pupil laptops ordered.

Thank you to the Bookshop Committee and all their efforts throughout the year in encouraging our children in their love of reading, through manning the Bookshops each Tuesday and Thursday, organising and funding the Author visits and the bi-annual book Fairs.

Thank you also to the Uniform Committee for their continued support. The transition to the web based shop has gone well. The service provided by School wear made easy was fast and efficient. (unless you were buying the ‘right’ GHS tie!)

And thank you to our events committee. Their first year was dampened by a global pandemic however, I returned to work and was promptly sent an email of thoughts and ideas from the team – raring to go!

School Role

507

75 started in P1

Full at P2, 3, 5 & 6

Catchment only space at P7.

Staffing Update

4 Staff on Maternity Leave – Miss Wilson, Miss Kidd, Mrs Neilson and Mrs Stefanatos. Mrs McGeoch will start her maternity leave in December and there’s more news on that front but all in good time.

Ms Sim and Mr Paterson join the teaching team for their first teaching role. Due to long term staff absence, Mrs Ruth Gillen and Mrs Louise Duff have joined the teaching team on a temporary basis.

Mrs Angela Stevenson returned following the end of her secondment with the local authority as a numeracy & coaching officer.

Mrs Helen Greenhorn and Miss Laura Anderson join our EL&CC team as Depute Heads of Centre. A further two ELCOs have joined the EL&CC team. Hayley Cochrane and Zoe McIntyre. Interviews recently took place to fill the position of Support Workers so fingers crossed we’ll have all our staff in place for our new building opening at the end of the year. It’s really looking great, taking shape quickly now and the internal works are progressing well now too.

Our return to school has been a cautious one. We have risk assessed, and continue to do so as further changes are implemented. Lots of anxieties during those first few days/weeks but this has definitely settled now. The children have been great. It is different for them and we know they miss how it was, but we must do our very best to protect them and all the staff at HPS.

The big focus has been everyone’s Health & Wellbeing, Literacy and Numeracy. Part of that has been using our outdoor space. Despite hoping for a change to PE guidance today, Ed Scot advice remains that PE should take place outdoors until 5 October. It was reinforced that there was a need for parents to move away from the P1-4 pick up areas as soon as children are collected. A council representative had reviewed these arrangements was satisfied with the approach taken.

A question was asked about parent’s night. This might take the form of a personal phone call but arrangements had not been discussed in detail. Children’s art work would be displayed via the blog and google classroom. Residential trips (Loch Insh) could take place after March 2021 but no money (deposits) can be taken by the school. Mrs Murray was in discussion with Loch Insh about possible options.

A question was asked about provisions made for remote learning should a local lockdown be reintroduced. Google classroom would remain the core option. ‘Google Meet’ and Microsoft Teams would also be an option for live lessons. Recorded lessons could also be utilised and these would offer more flexibility for families where parents were working from home.

A question was asked about the reported track and trace at Gryffe High School and what provision would be made for children having to isolate at home should this happen at HPS. Mrs Murray reassured us that the local authority have an ‘isolation team’ essentially teachers not able to be in school. They would be linked to pupils in isolation and would communicate with the pupil.

A question was asked about messages and how these would be passed on. Teachers would pass these to parents using google classroom.

Parents were asked to avoid using teacher emails directly but to use the Houston Enquiries option, these emails would go to the class teacher and relevant line manager.

8. Election of Office Bearers and review of school council members

The position of Treasurer will be taken by Kirsty Fowler

The position of Vice-Chair will be taken by Matthew Alexander

9.  AOB

Date of next meeting TBC

In attendance (let me know if anyone was missed):

 