# **Houston Primary School – Parent Council Minutes**

# **Monday 22nd May 20233 @ 7:30 PM**

Previous Minutes approved- Nicki Barratt

## Attendees:

* Liona Doyle (Chairperson)
* Laura Masterson
* Nicola McNair
* Anne Nimmo
* Lesley Bain
* Kirsty Fowler
* Morven Feeley
* Louise Hastings
* Victoria Lyons
* Amrita Graham
* Carol Farqhuar
* Jennifer Murray
* Jillian McPherson
* Lorraine Wilson

## **Chairpersons report**

We have now moved to Google meets as it is a free platform. Zoom wasn’t.

Thanks to Laura for posting notifications.

Planning on gathering feedback as to whether we want online or face to face meetings from now on. If we move to face to face it will be at Gryffe High School, I will put up a survey to decide going forward.

#### **Spring disco feedback**

lots of fun, and a good amount of money raised £728.50.

#### **Photos**

Photos for Aug 23 are booked with Tempest again with 2 slots booked.

#### **Loch Insh feedback**

Thanks to everyone for the Loch Insh Trip, feedback received that the kids had a great time.

## **Book club**

Looking for any volunteers to help the ladies. The library is looking amazing, and the children will have 2x 30-minute slots per child.

The library is also going to be used as a teaching space and it looks absolutely brilliant.

Lots of money was invested, it will be a great resource for the children and the school.

## **Uniform committee**

Looking to get Summer orders in early before prices increase.

The ties have arrived for the leavers for:

* ST Benedict's High School
* Gryffe High School

This will be Morven’s last meeting and we'll hand over to Laura and Bernadette for leavers hoodies.

Re stock: We did have a wee flash sale as we had lots of small sizes and big sizes so need to try and shift these, also lots of gyms shorts still available.

Still looking for a new system for orders, word form doesn't seem to be working but we managed.

We have had £167 through from My Name Tags, as we get the Commission from these name tags. I will also highlight this on Facebook.

Sarah Louise will be doing uniforms for the nursery so they have a committee for this, I will get a code for name tags for the nursery as well.

## **Treasurer's report**

* Bank balance = £9496.19
* The spring disco = £728.50
* Easy fundraising = £66.26 at the end of April 2023

Money due to go out to fund the summer fun night.

**Question to the group** : In regards to the money we have left over is there something we can fund if needed?

## **Events committee**

We don't have anything to update at this point.

We are processing the tea towels and we'll have them out before the end of term.

Letters will go out to everyone for the fun night tomorrow 23rd May 2023.

Dress down day will be on Thursday 25th May 2023 for the tombola collection, all items to be dropped off at the office, especially alcohol.

## **Mrs. Murray's report**

**Thank you to Morven**:

It has been a tremendous service you have provided, we will be sad to lose you and to say goodbye to your children.

We are under way for prep for next term:

**Class info:**

* 19 classes so far but this can change.
* 15 standard and four composite classes

Also revaluating school improvement plan, many items progressing, some not as far ahead.

**Staffing**

Post COVID staffing here has been the most difficult and we have been struggling.

* seeing issues with swimming runs and staffing levels for these types of trips.
* We are sending out requests to try to get volunteers as we cannot legally leave the school without meeting ratios.

So if you can help out with volunteering please let us know!

**Points raised in regard to volunteers:**

1. Can we appeal to grandparents if available?
**Response**: yes of course no requirement for PVG as not working alone with any of the children.
2. Should we advertise for school helpers ie. locally, Gryffe High School pupils can they help?

**Response**: yes, and they already are.

**Health week,**
The children had such a Great time and we pulled out all the stops to cover as much as we could.

In regard to Trip time it was lovely to get out in the community and the community said it was lovely to see the school children out and about.

Feedback on volunteering from Amreeta

When volunteering it was very rewarding and I was so impressed with the teachers on the trips well done teachers.

Mrs. Murray responded it's hard to get some involved but we have a great volunteer group and I will pass on your feedback to the staff thank you.

Liona highlighted parents would appreciate more notice to volunteer it's thought that feedback on whether they are required is coming back too late.

Mrs. Murray responded I'm aware of the issue, but office staff are new and are still learning what is required.

## **School library**

Library is installed and looking fabulous. The blinds have still to be installed we're looking at how to spend funds and we're fortunate to have such a fabulous parent council group.

Money raised by the parent council goes into a separate fund to assist with purchasing different items each year.

We have had a sport safe assessment for play equipment including our outdoor equipment unfortunately they have condemned the trim trail and basketball padding.

The trim trail is 10 to 15 years old and if permitted we would like to ensure that this is replaced so that all pupils and nursery pupils can then benefit from the trim trail.

We also require replacing the basketball padding so we'd like to use some money for this too.

**Liona** responded that she would discuss and look at the funds to enable support for this equipment.

**Laura** highlighted we could have an event to raise funds for this equipment.

**Treasurer Kirsty responded:** We shouldn't need to run another event, as we have the money in the bank account and we should spend the money on the trim trail and the other equipment require . It is to be used by the school and the nursery so it's worth spending the money in this area.

Mrs. Murray additionally highlighted that we need to use money to cover the accelerated reading.

## Miss Wilson - Equality & Equity

We will be sending out a survey on equality and equity, as we need to have a policy.
At Houston Primary we have lots already embedded in our normal programs and we did a self-evaluation with teachers to see where we were.

There will be a parent survey sent out, and a pupil survey. This will include as an example questions on:

* equal opportunity
* fair treatment
* disabilities
* racism
* respect

For example

* Does my child feel safe happy and have equal opportunities?
* Does the school show equality and promotes an ethos that is effective in eliminating discrimination.

We are still firming up plans before sending out.

Liona commented that she is glad to hear this is going ahead and looks forward to seeing the results.

## AOB

Finally, Liona reconfirmed she will send out a survey to determine what everyone wants to do in terms of face-to-face meetings or whether to continue with online meetings. So everyone look out for this survey.

# End of meeting.