Houston primary School Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 12th June 2019

**Present:**

Nicki Barret, Alexis Alexander, Elizabeth Lindsay, Samantha Ballantyne, Joanne Thompson, John Gaffney, Dawn Campbell, Jo Renshaw, Jennifer Murray, Amanda Johnston, Lorraine Wilson, Pamela Kellock-Shetty, Morgan Feely, Laura MacLeod, Charlotte Taylor, Carol Farquhar, Louise Hastings, Jillian McPherson. (Apologies if I didn’t jot down your name on the night.)

**Apologies** sent from Mrs Stephanatos

\*Opening from Nicki Barret with a big thank you to the events team for the summer BBQ On the Friday night.

\*School website is currently down at present, but the teachers have it in hand and the Blogg is still working. At least it is a good indication that the blogg and website are both being used.

**1: Uniform Report** from Morven Feely

\*Uniform shop is going well, and all is in hand at present. The nursery uptake has been good, and the induction order has been sent in. Summer order will arrive in the next week or so for distribution.

\*Going forward, the decision has been made that there will be no “ad hoc” ordering available throughout the year, and the tracksuit order is to go in after the summer.

\*Would we be able to sell stock at parents’ night and Christmas fayre?

\*Could we possibly set up a “preloved” facility wherein people could donate used uniform for other pupils?

\*P7 Leavers Hoodies will take place just after the children return to school.

\*And finally, a fond farewell to Lorna Harvie who has run the uniform shop for several years, and a welcome to Laura Masterton who will fill the breach.

**2: Treasurers Report:**

\*Bank Balance is £7505.96 excluding BBQ funds.

Easy Fundraising has generated nearly £1000

Funds went towards P7 levers dictionaries, Inflatables, School visits etc over and above the usual spends

\*Cheryl is also stepping down as treasurer next year, with a view to someone shadowing her this year as her last child is now in p6.

\*Another thanks to Elizabeth for all her hard work as Chairperson of the events committee.

**3: Events Report:**

As always thank you to all who help at the events, the events wouldn’t be so successful if we didn’t have such a great support from the Events Committee, parent helpers, Teachers, support staff, the janitor, office and kitchen staff.

**Spring Disco**

The Spring Disco was much quieter than the Halloween disco with 243 kids attending, raising £569.95 (Last Year was 394) this is 100 less the Halloween Disco, P5-7 was noticeably quieter than the Halloween disco

Flashy stall hasn’t had a huge impact on takings as over both discos we raised £1893.15 which is similar over the past few years.

P1 & P2 = 113 (Last Year 138) Halloween 122

P3 & P4 = 75 (Last Year 99) Halloween 97

P5 - P7=55 (157 last year) Halloween 127

**Summer Fun Night**

What a night, unfortunately we couldn’t have all the stalls on offer that we had planned due to lack of additional helpers, some people didn’t turn up on the night which left us short and people having to man 2 stalls. If anyone can help either by joining the fundraising committee or just helping at the events, please get in touch.

We raised £4231.34 which is up £1824.05 on last year I am absolutely over the moon with this figure. This was hugely down to the new Raffle and no outlay for food. The last time we took anywhere near this amount was at the last BBQ where we had a bar on offer. To say I am over the moon with this total would be a huge understatement.

**This year** we have raised a total £9666.59 from the events. (+£1145.45 on last year).

**Magic Show**

The committee were looking at adding another fun event after researching some ideas it was decided to offer a Fun magic show during the last week of term in the school day

**Easy Fundraising**

Since 5.3.19 we have raised £146.05 totalling £958.74 with 97 people signed up (7 more since last meeting)

**Next Year’s event dates:**

Halloween Disco 24.10.19

Christmas fayre 5.12.19

Movie Night 27.2.20

Spring Disco 27.3.20

Summer Fun Night 5.6.20

\*It is with great sadness we say goodbye to Elizabeth as she steps down from her role as Events Committee chairperson. Louise Hastings and Laura MacLeod will be jointly assuming this role.

**4: Head Teachers report**

\*Staffing numbers are almost on target, and school pupil numbers will reflect this. Next session will see:

18 classes in total comprised of 15 straight year group classes and 3 composite classes.

The school has taken advantage of the smaller P1 intake this year to absorb the ever-growing waiting list for the school. 13 new pupils will enrol across the year. So, lots of change coming.

\*PEF funding has been used for health and wellbeing, SEAL maths (Mrs Neilson will continue to be responsible for the SEAL programme, with a view to supporting other pupils further up the school)

4 staff members have undertaken beyond SEAL training for maths, with positive feedback, which focuses on elements such as algebra, when it becomes tricky etc to help pupils understand the process.

There will be a small amount of PEF funding left.

\*The school is to be rewired over the summer and the emptying of the rooms has started. No one is sure what to expect come the end of the summer, and teachers will only be allowed access at the Inservice days. Mrs Murray is hopeful it will be ready in time, with CCTV to be installed at a later date. It would be helpful if someone could contact B and Q to see if the have dust sheets available. Also, with great relief and delight, the fish are being looked after!

\*School improvement plan is in its final stages. The nursery plans are also coming on and should be available for public viewing soon.

\*Mrs McPherson, Mrs Watt and Mrs Farquar are to undertake 3 days training in 6 nurturing principles. This will help children to express themselves and communicate with greater ease. Also, with attainment funding, a nurture room/space should be available for every class next year. Mrs Farquhar will meet with the line manager to track children’s progress, and hopefully give children a voice to avoid any children with issues slipping through the net. The children will all be given questionnaires to complete in September and February to give teachers abetter understanding of how each child is getting on in terms of their personal wellbeing. This has been trialled to see if it is successful and to garner pupil opinion/feedback. These are age appropriate, and easy for the child to fill out. The ethos being that how they are feeling should reflect how they think they are doing. We hope this will be a useful tool to ensure all children’s needs are being met.

P6/7 for example, now have “masterclasses” instead of golden time. Wherein children are encouraged to try a new skill. So instead of loosing golden time as a result of unwanted behaviour, it will be viewed as a “blip” and a period of appropriate reflection will be implemented. 3 “blips” require a meeting with Mrs McPherson wherein a reflection sheet will be completed to make sure the issue is dealt with appropriately. So far this seems to be working really well

\*Nursery news. As yet, there are no specific details regarding what will be available to nursery aged children. It will be built down at the bottom of the overspill car park and will have its own office, janitor etc. It will remain Houston Primary School nursery. Proposed construction will start in January 2020 with anticipated completion in August 2020. The current nursery will be flattened and become a playground for the new nursery. As it stands, the staffing profile will have to change to allow for the proposed 3 new sessions (8-1, 9-3 and 1-6). It is unclear at present what the uptake will be. So far, the 2 and a half day a week uptake has been popular. The nursery panel area is different from the school catchment area but will be for 3-5-year olds only. Th school will continue to facilitate the nursery for PE etc and maintain a close relationship class philosophy to establish relationships going forward. The school will still maintain links with partner nurseries and will keep people informed as and when information becomes available.

\*In service days feedback has been forwarded to Mrs Murray. It is important to clarify that teachers aren’t getting extra days off, but that they are using the time to address the ever-increasing workload faced daily.

**Any Other Business**

\* We need to get flowers for Lorna as a thank you for her hard work on the uniform committee

\*AGM is in the annual planner for the last Wednesday in August

\*WE need to arrange for parent helpers for the photographs. The photographer this year has been changed to Julie Vance following feedback from last year’s photographs.