Houston Primary School Council

AGM

11th January 2021

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

Apologies sent by the chairperson Nicki Barrett. Cheryl Logan chaired the meeting on her behalf.

3. Treasurer’s Report

 Treasurer reported a balance of £5,409.97 approx. in the bank Easy fundraising was only source of income due to the COVID-19 situation (£88.25) and parents were again encouraged to sign up. £99.60 was paid out for the film night licence. Christmas card orders raises £1,900 and thanks was extended to Leslie Anne Beaton for all her hard work. Cheryl extended a willingness to help the new treasurer transition onto the role as this is her final year in the role, but as she hasn’t been able to do this, she has kindly offered to come back next year to help.

4.  Uniform Report

Laura reported that despite the obvious restrictions in selling via school etc, they made £890 profit.

The tracksuits have proved to be extremely popular with 75 orders! Hoodies caused a sight issue in that the samples ordered were a different make from those supplied, but the problem was resolved, and relevant samples will be asked for next time.

Mrs Murray felt that it weas better for the p7 pupils to get their hoodies early so they can get the wear out of them, with many council members agreeing with the sentiment.

5.  Events Committee Report

Nothing to report for obvious reasons.

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. However, a very VERY successful book fayre went ahead albeit in a different format. Over £1500 in commission was raided, and it was discussed that the new format may be incorporated on a permanent basis going forward. Scholastics have been brilliant to deal with and very supportive. The accelerated reading programme has been replenished,

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

The school has been exceptionally busy with key worker children on return after the Christmas break. There is much bigger expectations on the school, in terms of engagement and maintaining that level, although it is hard to replicate the type of learning done in a class context. It is hard to create a balance wherein parents working from home are not overwhelmed. Also, the number of children in the hub will impact on the type of learning that can be provided. The school itself is not responsible for allocating the places, and with so many more businesses open and parents not furloughed etc, the council has had to decide which pupils’ fir the criteria.

Feedback from council members were that so far, the work had been really good with more variety which Mrs Johnstone reiterated, saying things are evolving as they go along. No one is under any illusion that it will be a short-term situation. The emphasis is very much one of do what you can when you can!

Mrs Murray was asked about loch Inch. The school dance is booked for the p7s but both activities are unlikely to go ahead. Mrs Murray worked really hard to create a situation wherein they could pay a refundable deposit to Loch Inch, but it is proving difficult. The faculty will try and discuss an alternative closer to the time. Possibly an activity at Castle Semple or something similar.

Staffing levels are currently fluid, with people returning from and going on maternity leave. There will be more clarity with time. Mrs Murray will slot people in accordingly and parents will be made aware.

9.  AOB

Date of next meeting TBC

In attendance (let me know if anyone was missed)

Cheryl Logan

Alexis Alexander

Mathew Alexander

J. McPherson

Laura Masterton

John Gaffney

J. Murray

Morven Feeley

Mrs Johnstone

Kirsty Fowler

Alison Livingston

Athur Prenelle

Nicola Mcnar

Laura Macleod

Louisw Hastings

Jo Renshaw

Emma Bull