

SOUTH MORNINGSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

**SOUTH MORNINGSIDE PARENT COUNCIL**

Draft minutes of the SMPC AGM held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2014 at 6.45pm in the main hall.

**Total Attendees: (39)**

**Parent Council Members (22)**

Craig Hilton (Chair)	Elaine Jones (Fundraising)
Jonathan Mundy (Secretary)	Stephen James
Graeme Drummond (Clubs)	Jamie Bookless
Kerry Simpson (Clubs, Finance)	Susan Regnart
Peter Sibson (Finance)	Lauren Jack (Staff) *
Liz Grierson *(Head Teacher)	Miriam Jackson (Finance)
Noelle O'Doherty (MCC)	Fiona Gilmour (Staff)*
Alison Dalrymple (Treasurer)	Nikki McNair
Stella Sinclair (Communications)	Eileen Maclean (Communications)
Howard Kippax (Accommodation)	Kate Smith
Marion Bourbouze (Fundraising, Playground)	Pam Ferguson*

Parent council made up of 24 Parent Members plus 6\* non-voting staff members

**Guests (17)**

Joanna Loxley (parent)	Jon Turner (parent)
Karen Richmond (staff)	Alan Rehfish (parent)
Susanna Waller (parent)	Lucy Birch (parent)
Jenny Shiell (parent)	Priyanka Gilmore (parent)
Ollly Headey (parent)	Mai Alsammak (parent)
Vanessa Charlton (parent)	Brian Sharp (parent)
Marion Lowe (parent)	Deborah Murphy (parent)
Lesley Macniven (parent)	Ellie Trotter (parent)
Sheri Wallace (parent)	

**Apologies (9) received in advance of the meeting**

Roksan Hur	Yvonne Moore (staff)*
Janice Robertson	Trish Watson (staff)*
Joanna Morrison	Morag Macdonald (staff)*
Edel Ryan	Gillian Anderson
Maria Dickson	

#### **Councillors invited (none attended) (4)**

Cllr Melanie Main	Cllr Sandy Howat
Cllr Paul Godzik	Cllr Mark McInnes

#### **6.45 Welcome and Introduction to the PC by Craig Hilton (Chair)**

#### **7.00 Meeting start, attendees and apologies (Chair)**

#### **7.05 Introduction from the Head Teacher Mrs Grierson**

- Mrs Grierson wanted to extend a special thank you to Jonathan Mundy, who is now stepping down as PC Secretary, for his tremendous contribution to the parent council and the school.
- Mrs Grierson spoke of the budget cuts and austerity measures that will be affecting school finances in the next few years. She stressed how important fundraising is to the school and thanked everyone involved for their hard work.
- Thanks to the support of the PC the school now have four full days' use of the annex hall for PE and a fully funded pupil support assistant to help transfer the children safely between the two sites.
- Traffic and road safety are still an issue around the school and annex. The school would like to challenge the council's decision not to employ a crossing patrol person to assist children going to and from the annex. Mrs Grierson has another meeting arranged with Councillor Godzik to reassess the traffic issues.
- There are rising rolls in P1 across the city. The PC support has been greatly appreciated in relation to the on-going school roll and accommodation issues.
- The school building is in need of repair and the council have funded stonework repairs which will unfortunately take about a year to complete. Sections of the school will be covered in scaffolding during this time.
- Mrs Grierson wanted to thank Kerry Simpson for all her hard work in co-ordinating the running of the clubs. The school with the support of the PC would still like to offer places in clubs to those children who are currently not accessing them.
- The school leadership group met termly last year. They are looking for parent representatives to be involved once again. Last year they managed to revise the curriculum for P6 and P7.

## 7.10 Parent Council: a review of 2013-14 and looking forward to 2014/15

**a) Chair update (Craig Hilton)** Craig used a power point presentation to briefly introduce the PC to new attendees.

**b) Accommodation (Howard Kippax)** The accommodation group looks at how the school environment affects children and learning. The main on-going issues are the annex, rising school rolls and the aging forty year old huts. The accommodation group works with the school management, seeks the views of the parent body and lobbies the council. The accommodation group seeks to look for solutions to the issues. The primary long term aim is to achieve another school for South Edinburgh. However, in the short term the school needs another classroom for summer 2015. There is an important meeting next Monday in the Hall with Councillor Paul Godzik and the Children and Families Committee to discuss accommodation. All are encouraged to attend.

**c) Fundraising Group (Marion Bourbouze)** This is an all-inclusive group that welcomes new parents and ideas. Correspondence is often by e-mail. All sorts of levels of involvement are possible. The two main events each year are the winter fair (which will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2014) and the summer fair. This year the fashion show will not be running and the car boot sale still needs someone to organise it.

**d) Finance group (Peter Sibson)** This group deals with requests to the PC for funding. Volunteers are needed as Peter Sibson is standing down.

**e) Playground Group (Karen Richmond)** Karen explained that the playground group first met two years ago and includes a small group of dedicated parents. A playground adviser was consulted to work with the children's ideas and create some plans. Negotiations with the council have proved to be complicated. Three different quotes have now been obtained. The stone work repairs and scaffolding have affected our plans to implement phase one of the playground improvements, however the good news is that the school is hoping to move forward with the bike and scooter shelter work and they have obtained a matched funding grant of 50%. Phase 1 will go ahead as soon as conditions allow. The funding for phase one is currently sitting in the PC account.

**f) Clubs (Kerry Simpson)** a clubs group now exists and there is a new clubs co-ordinator Maria Dickson. Graeme Drummond has been working on the PVG checks for club leaders. Each club has a parent convenor. The clubs are non-profit making; any surplus goes back to the PC.

**g) Communication (Eileen Maclean)** The revamped SMPC website will be launched soon and will be the main focus for information. They have also set up a Twitter account and a Facebook page. There is a communications policy for the use of PC Google Groups.

**h) Morningside Community Council (Noelle O'Doherty)** The MCC meet once a month and lobby on local issues such as bins, traffic etc. They were involved on the Morningside Park Green Flag award and they organise the Christmas tree and lights. The MCC have to be consulted on local issues such as the Craighouse development and they have the power to

make applications etc. The MCC is really keen to attract and interest younger members. There will be a link to the MCC on the SMPC website.

**i) Transport (Craig Hilton)** Gordon Curruthers has been a good campaigner and kept the PC informed of local transport issues. The PC needs to keep abreast of relevant national and city wide transport initiatives. We lobby on issues such as reduced speed limits around the annex etc. There is still much work to be done.

## **7.50 Parent Council Membership**

a) Record of members standing down and membership status (Secretary). There were 24 PC members and 6 staff members prior to the AGM meeting and 10 members have now resigned, creating 16 vacancies. The maximum number of parent voting members is 30.

b) Appointment of new parent member volunteers (Secretary)

c) Appointment of office bearers (by voting members of the PC) (Secretary).

**Chair: Craig Hilton** put himself forward for re-election. He was re-elected as chair: nominated by Jamie Bookless, seconded by Stephen James. Voting: 17 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention (Chair did not vote).

**Treasurer: Alison Dalrymple** put herself forward for re-election. She was re-elected as Treasurer: nominated by Kerry Simpson, seconded by Miriam Jackson. Voting: 17 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention (Treasurer did not vote).

**Secretary: Susanna Waller** put herself forward for election. She was elected as Secretary (to take over from Jonathan Mundy with immediate effect): nominated by Susan Regnart, seconded by Noelle O'Doherty. Voting: 17 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention (Secretary did not vote).

## **8.00 Other AGM Business**

**a) Approval of Minutes of the AGM held on September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2013 (Jonathan Mundy Secretary).** Voting: 15 in favour, 0 against, 3 abstentions.

**b) Constitution Status** No proposals have been received. This will remain unchanged for another year and is published on the website.

**C) Approval of the SMPC Annual Accounts presented by Alison Dalrymple Treasurer.** Voting: 16 in favour, 0 against, 2 abstentions.

**d) Appointment of the independent examiner of the accounts for the next 12 months.** David Hughes reappointed for another year. Voting: 15 in favour, 0 against, 3 abstentions.

### **8.15 AOB**

### **8.25 Close**

The meeting was closed by the Chair Craig Hilton.

**Date of Next PC Meeting** – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 6.45pm.

### **Supporting Papers Supplied in Meeting Pack**

- 1) Draft Minutes of the Parent Council AGM held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013 (Jonathan Mundy)
- 2) Report: Chair (Craig Hilton)
- 3) Report: Finance Group (Peter Sibson)
- 4) Report and Accounts: Treasurer (Alison Dalrymple)

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