

SOUTH MORNINGSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL
SOUTH MORNINGSIDE PARENT COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the SMPC meeting held on Monday 8th May 2017 at 6.45pm in the staff room.

Total Attendees: (20)

Parent Council Members (18)

Brian Sharp (Chair)	Jenny Shiell
Chris Hebden (Treasurer)	Howard Kippax
Ruth Campbell (Secretary)	Antonia Hynd
Deborah Murphy (Comms)	Emma Cunningham
Kathy Gillies (Clubs)	
Olly Headey (Comms)	
Ellie Trotter	Michael Urquhart (Headteacher)*
Sheri Wallace (Finance)	Karen Richmond*
Amina Slimani-Fersia (Clubs)	Lauren Lambie*
Hamish Innes	Pam Ferguson*

Parent council made up of 14 Parent Members plus 4* non-voting staff members

Guests (2)

Priyanka Gilmore	Simon West

Apologies (9) received in advance of the meeting

Craig Hilton	Helen New
Jude Balfour	Irene-marie Esser
Kate Forster	Susan Morgan*
Kirstin Beard	Morag Macdonald*
Aga Morrison	

6.45 Welcome, attendees and apologies - Brian Sharp (Chair) and Ruth Campbell (Secretary)

The Chair welcomed all attendees and confirmed the apologies that had been received prior to the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2017 were approved.
(in 12 favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions)

6.50 Review of matters arising & actions from the last meeting – Ruth Campbell (Secretary)

#27/16 – Alteration in clubs code of conduct – Kathy and Mr Urquhart to arrange meeting following decisions over new club joining and payment system. Ongoing into the new school year.

#30/16 – School uniform supplier change – To be addressed later in the meeting.
(action closed)

#31/16 – Class link person for every class – Work ongoing.

#02/17 – Clubs online joining/payment system – Questions over whether this is absolutely necessary. Changes through information available to parents for the new school year may be enough to reduce previous problems.

#03/17 – Side lane at Deanbank site – Morningside Community Council are already discussing this issue. No more that we as a Parent Council can do. **(action closed)**

#04/17 – Remote controls for school heating – Work is ongoing.

6.55 Report: Chair (paper submitted by Brian Sharp)

See report for detail.

Brian met with other Parent Council Chairs in a meeting hosted by MSP Daniel Johnson at the Scottish Parliament. One of the topics for discussion was the ParentPay system. Many of the reports were not positive, and Brian questioned what we could do about this. Mr Urquhart reported a 99% uptake by our parents, and that the Schools experience was a positive one, with reduced money through the School Office.

7.00 Digital Learning Resource Update (Mr West)

The Parent Council funded six Viglen Connect tablets preloaded with Windows 10 following the last PC meeting. Mr West explained that these are currently being used as a trial in one class, to replace the current PLP system. He hopes that Microsoft's OneNote used with these tablets will be a way of allowing the children to build an evidence portfolio of their latest and best work.

One Note has an easy interface, is dynamic, and is a powerful way of storing digital media. It locks to one individual and can incorporate a private area, accessible to the pupil and teacher only, a group area and a whole school area. The tablets will be able to access the City of Edinburgh WiFi. It is hoped that eventually all pupils will have access to OneNote in time, and that their account will follow them from Primary to Secondary education.

7.20 Report: Head Teacher (Mrs Richmond)

Mrs Richmond discussed two main topics. The first was the School's method of sharing and reporting. She hopes that parents will share their views and thoughts at ENGAGE events held across the SMPC sites at the end of May and beginning of June. She hopes that Comms can help with spreading the word on this. These views will help inform and direct how we go forward next year.

She shared 'A Vision for Our Early Years at South Morningside Primary'. Mrs Richmond is undertaking a Masters in Education at Moray House. Evidence shows that children receive the most educational benefit around age 7, and that formal education prior to that has the potential to be damaging. She introduced the idea of a One-a-ry. The emphasis will be on a play-based approach to learning. There will be no classes or

classrooms. The children will be given time and space to develop habits of play promoting physical and mental health. The current nursery will adapt hours to allow for staff development on Fridays. Again, parental views will be sought at the ENGAGE events.

7.40 Report: Treasurer (paper submitted by Chris Hebden)

See report for detail.

Chris reported that many of the teachers' allocated allowances remained, and encouraged the staff to use them before the year end.

7.45 Review of Funding Requests/Finance Group Update

Sheri noted a couple of late funding requests. One for an additional science teacher allocation, which would become part of the committed spend each year. The other was to contribute towards the P7 disco. A vote may be taken between meetings via the PC Google Group.

7.50 Standing Agenda items:

a) Accommodation update – Howard noted that there will be a new Convenor of Education following the election, and further accommodation issues will be looked at then.

b) Clubs Group update (paper submitted by Kathy Gillies)

See report for details.

Kathy explained that the main focus going forward will be changing parental perceptions towards Clubs by giving more information, accessible through the new combined website. Further to the report, the Gym Club convenors have now been found. There is space for a new club at Deanbank, as Science Club will finish at the end of term.

Tech4Kids update – Ellie explained her project with Amazon and P6 children, encouraging children to look at how technology works in the real world. The children will learn how to solve problems using robots. They will build a robot in class, and then go to the Amazon offices to programme them. The project will be funded by Amazon, and the school will own the equipment for use each year.

c) Fundraising Update (paper submitted by Fiona Kippax) –

See report for detail.

Although many of the Summer Fair slots have been filled, over 50 still remain. Get volunteering!

d) Morningside Community Update – Discussions at MCC this month included: a late hours catering licence (until 5am) for a food delivery firm, a cold calling ban on Comiston Road which may be extended to surrounding areas, and the opening of a tattoo parlour which received no objection from Edinburgh Council.

e) Transport update – no update.

f) Playground update – Mrs Richmond will be making a preapproved request for horticultural supplies and increased storage at Deanbank. Edinburgh Council have signed off on the environmental garden. The trim track is to be removed. Discussions on how to move forward are still in process. A communication will be sent to parents when it is time to move forward.

g) Communications update (paper submitted by Olly Headey)

See report for detail.

h) Situations Vacant - none.

8:10 Requested items

School Uniform Supplier (papers submitted by Claire and Niamh (parents) and Ruth Campbell)

See reports for detail.

Further to our first meeting of the year, the Parent Council were keen to change supplier of the school uniforms. It was felt that the prices were extremely high compared to other schools. Comparative quotes were sought for garments identical to the ones we now have.

It was felt that there were two companies in contention: Superlogo and Border Embroideries. The school had previously worked with Superlogo for the leavers hoodies, and reported a positive experience. Superlogo is based in Leith, where it has a shop, and the Managing Director lives locally. Border Embroideries supply many schools within Edinburgh, despite being based in the Borders. They have slightly cheaper prices. Both have positive recommendations and operate through an online shop.

A vote will be taken via the PC Google Group #05/17

ParentPay discussion

There was no time to discuss ParentPay in more detail, suffice to say that the Senior Staff felt that nothing could be changed at this point.

8.20 AOB - none.

8.25 Close

The meeting was closed by the Chair.

Date of next meeting: Monday 6th June 2017

Supporting Papers Supplied in the Meeting Pack

- Draft Minutes of the Parent Council meeting 6th March 2017 (Secretary)
- Matters Arising/Action log (Secretary)
- Chair Report (Brian Sharp)
- Treasurer Report (Chris Hebden)
- Clubs Update (Kathy Gillies)
- Communications Update (Olly Headley)
- Fundraising Update (Fiona Kippax)
- School Uniform Options (Claire McPherson)
- School Uniform Quotes (Ruth Campbell)