

# Meeting Minutes

## South Morningside Parent Council Meeting

2 March 2020 at 6.45–8.20pm in Staff Room, Comiston Road

### Attendees

#### Parent Council Parent Members

Brendan Paddy	Clare Bowyer
Olly Headey	Andrew Leiper
Jill Dallas	John Cameron
Shelagh Halford	Jeremy Balfour
Emily Hargreaves	Elisabeth Quinn
Eilidh Stimpson	Alison Reeves
Joana Valdez-Tullett	Lizzie Kenrick
David Davies	Colin McRae
Alice Nelson	

#### Parent Council Staff Members (non-voting)

Michael Urquhart	Yvonne Moore
Karen Richmond	

#### Councillors

Cllr Melanie Main	Cllr Neil Ross
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#### Parent/staff attendees/Guests

Helen New	Aimee Reid (SMASCC)
Karen Hawkes	Angela Robinson
Reuben Carr	Wendy Clarke
Erica Cairney	Janet Fraser

### **Welcome, attendees and apologies**

Brendan welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Jill pointed out a couple of things from her report:

- Playground works – the costs have been overestimated by nearly £7k. Therefore, a workable surplus exists.
- Jill has joined the Finance group to help with putting together their budget. Going forward, Finance are likely to spend all of the money raised for committed funds. Routine expenditure is about £16k each year (committed funds). Fundraising needs to meet committed funds and any projects, e.g. playground works. The budget will be known between April and June.
- Olly suggested some discussion at the Parent Council about the committed funds and whether these are the right things to spend money on.
- An update from the Finance subgroup is expected.
- Some funds need to be kept back for anything unexpected during the year. If we continue to spend everything raised, over the next few years, the reserves will be dwindled.

### **Review & Approval of Minutes of 13 January 2020 meeting**

The minutes of the 13 January 2020 were approved.

Helen New to be added to the list of attendees.

### **Review of matters arising & actions from last meeting**

See separate document.

### **Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSAs)**

Mrs Moore gave a presentation on the SNSAs, which SMPS participated in a pilot of in 2016.

Mrs Moore explained:

- Assessing pupils is an integral part of teaching. The assessment calendar has recently been completed. Day to day observations take place as well, e.g. in P1, through classwork and conversations with children.
- Standardised Assessments form part of a suite of assessments which take place.
- P1, P4 and 7 children are tested as part of the national improvement framework.

- The P1 assessment is numeracy and literacy. The aim is to try to get national consistency. It's used as a tool. Sometimes the test results aren't true of a child so the teacher has to use their judgement. They are also used for moderation.
- The assessments are designed to be user friendly and adaptive. They are not designed to be too hard or difficult and there is no time limit. Pupils are given practice questions first. In P1 the tests are read out to children (they wear headphones and the tests can be done on ipads or laptops). In P1, the assessment is a target which is set for the week.
- If a child is struggling, the questions get easier. The questions are therefore adaptive.
- Children are told not to answer if they don't know the answer. The school is training the children to think carefully about the question before answering.
- If a child normally needs longer or has support for learning, they can be taken out to do a sessions separately. Support normally available for the child is available during the assessment.
- Each year the tests improve.
- Once the assessment is completed, the school receives a personal report. If there are areas the children are struggling with, e.g. maths, a focus can be put on this for groups of children who need additional support with this.
- Children are placed within a band and the report summarises the skills the child has demonstrated.
- Traditionally children are tested at the end of the year. However, it could be used mid year to inform teaching for the rest of the academic year. This year, P4 and 7 children have been assessed in February. For P1 the information hasn't been as useful at this stage of the year. However, it's viewed as an additional tool.
- Data is used to plan next steps in learning for the pupil, group and class and can be used at parent consultations.
- If children are doing particularly well, the same support is given to ensure they are challenged in class. Some challenge groups are set up for this purpose, e.g. for problem solving.
- Comparisons to last year haven't been done yet.
- Curriculum for Excellence assessments are different so the SNSAs can be used to help predict what the results of the Curriculum for Excellence assessments will be.

## **Fundraising**

Elisabeth spoke about a couple of upcoming events.

1) A quiz night which will take place on 24 April to help raise funds for the playground works. Fundraising are looking to sell about 150 tickets. The 45 minute quiz will be followed by an auction. Fundraising are looking for 6-8 prizes for the auction and an auctioneer. This can help to increase the funds raised. Stewart's Brewery were suggested for an auction prize. The ticket price is £20 (which includes a welcome drink). The venue will be at Braid Hills

Hotel. It was suggested that tickets could be sold through class reps or through Event Bright.

2) A few smaller events, e.g. cake sale.

It was agreed that in advertising events, it is better to say the Parent Council is raising money for the Parent Council including the playground so that the funds can be spent on a variety of things including committed spend.

3) Summer Fair

Colin raised a concern about having the summer fair at Braidburn Valley Park as this would be a different consideration, e.g. charging for entry. Elisabeth said that they were looking at a different model this year, e.g. not charging for entry and opening it up to the community to hopefully raise more.

April 28<sup>th</sup> is when the works are due to be completed at the Comiston Road site but Mr Urquhart is hopeful they will be completed by June.

### **Afterschool club use of main hall**

- Brendan stated that discussion had taken place between Clubs, SMASCC and Active Schools. SMASCC would like the hall 4 nights a week but recognise this is a big ask. Ultimately this has reduced to 2 nights a week. A consensus has been reached between parties that this is a fair compromise.
- The difficult decision for the Parent Council will be what should stop as the hall won't be available for other activities (i.e. sports).
- For SMPC clubs, the same kids benefit each year. With Active Schools, all children have a chance to participate (children are changed each term). Basketball and volleyball are currently run by Active Schools but they accept the position SMASCC is in.
- Parents want to keep the clubs which are currently run by the Parent Council rather than Active Schools. However, the cost of Active Schools clubs is a lot lower (£2 per activity).
- Eilidh stated that the school Clubs do make a surplus for the Parent Council, which all children benefit from.
- Whether SMASCC is able to take any additional children as a result of using the hall will depend on discussions with the Care Inspectorate. Colin expressed concern about making a decision when this isn't known.
- However, Eilidh reminded the Parent Council that SMASCC had said they would potentially have to cut 20 places a day if they unable to get the hall.
- Concern was raised about the safety walking children up and down to the Church. However, there will be families who can't afford to do activities at other centres and therefore are reliant on Active Schools clubs to be able to allow their children to participate.

- Emily asked whether there is capacity to move the clubs if Stage Club relocate to an alternative venue. She said these are P6 and 7 children, who are capable of walking up to Greenbank Church.
- John asked whether any other clubs move out and can still be supported by the Parent Council. Brendan said a lot of time had been spent looking at alternatives. Some clubs have had to fold this year because there were issues getting children to the club off site. Clubs had tried very hard to find someone (including a paid position) to shepherd children to clubs but this failed.
- Judo and gymnastics have to run on the days they are currently due to tutor availability. Active Schools can be more flexible about what takes place on certain days.
- However, the school pointed out in the meeting that SMASCC can't be in the hall on Tuesday and Thursday due to events, e.g. parent consultations. This would mean SMASCC using the hall on Monday and Wednesday, which would affect Judo and Gymnastics (these were the clubs parents who participated in the consultation were most keen to keep).
- Decision to be made - does the Parent Council agree with the consensus for the hall to be used for SMASCC on Monday and Wednesday which affects Judo and Gymnastics (SMPC run clubs).
- Olly said he feels with 8 members of the Parent Council not present, a vote should be arranged separately.
- Emily said she feels the Parent Council should have the opportunity to have discuss this further. She added there was also a query over whether Stage Club could move out.
- The decision is likely to be relatively short-term as the position may change once the new school is open in 2021. Given this, a concern was raised that SMASCC use of the hall would limit the school's flexibility for events in future.
- It was felt that feedback from parents may have changed if they had had the information shared at the Parent Council meeting by the school about the hall not being available on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- It was agreed that the questionnaire would be re-circulated to parents, who will be asked to participate in 7- 10 days.
- Once the feedback is received from parents, the Parent Council will be asked to make a decision via doodlepoll (3 days to vote)

Thanks to Brendan for pulling all this information together on behalf of the Parent Council, SMASCC and Active Schools.

### **Deanbank works**

John said a positive meeting had taken place with the project manager and site manager. Concerns, e.g. site safety, emergency contacts were discussed. A diagram had been provided of the new access route. The complaints/comments process will work via a displayed QR code on a billboard, which goes straight to the site manager. We are unsure if the project is on target buy the contract is due to be completed May 2021.

The school updated that good communication channels with the contractor are now open. Some existing issues with rubbish and deliveries still exist but they are working on them.

A safe working zone has been created so that the contractors don't have to access the playground.

At the peak of the works, there will be over 100 workers on site, who will be bussed to site due to parking issues.

Thanks to the Accommodation team and Olly for progressing this work.

## **AOB**

### a. Office Bearer positions (Chair and Secretary)

Shelagh updated that, in accordance with the Parent Council constitution, she is required to step down as Secretary at the end of the academic year. Anyone who is interested in the Secretary position, can speak to her about what it involves.

Brendan updated that Olly and Brendan will be stepping down next year. He added that it would be great to be able to have someone shadow them over the next year.

### b. ECC proposals out for consultation

Brendan stated that there are a couple of ECC proposals out for consultation, which can affect the school, e.g. Comiston Road. Melanie explained this area is missed out of the mobility plan and encouraged everyone to participate in the consultation.

### c. Walking bus

This is still going ahead but there are concerns about numbers as interest has reduced. A mini pilot is due to run. Everything is in place but is now down to a very small group.

**Date of next meeting:** 27 April 2020