



Parent Council 26/9/2019 Minutes

Present: Marisa Wilson, Elaine Weir, Ali Ural, Tahar Azrine, Claudia Romero, Emily Paisley, Morna Phillips, Rebecca Vaughan, Kirsti Willis

1. Apologies: Stephen Mansfield
2. Parent Council Matters
3.
 - 3.1. Marisa Wilson to continue as Chair. Stephen Mansfield to step down as Vice Chair and Emily Paisley to be new Vice Chair. Ali Ural to step down as Treasurer and Elaine Weir to be new Treasurer. Elaine Weir and Morna Phillips to work together to sort the bank account issues, so the funds will be available for use.
 - 3.2. Marisa Wilson or Emily Paisley to attend Edinburgh Special Schools Parent Group. Marisa to attend meetings when they are held at Pilrig Park and Emily to attend any meetings held at Braidburn. Marisa to request minutes from parent meeting in September. Kirsti Willis is in the Parental Engagement Group led by Charlotte Chiswick (Redhall). She will feed back any information to parent council and distribute information on any events, etc. Elaine suggested that Oaklands has a Facebook presence to spread information. Kirsti will set up Oaklands Family Link Worker profile to stay informed and connect with parents/carers who are frequent users of FB.
 - 3.3. Constitution will be discussed at the next parent council.
4. Head Teacher's report:
 - The school has had a very positive start of session.
 - Elaine mentioned that she had had not received information about her son's new teacher. Morna and Rebecca apologised, as a chance of meeting the new teacher was given on last parents' evening, but no separate paperwork had gone out to homes. This was an oversight and would be rectified. Elaine also asks about transition into new classes at the end of the year. Morna explains that the school holds a transition afternoon when the classes spend the afternoon in their new classes.
 - Elaine says that the annual calendar with all school events would be useful for the parents to have. Morna and Rebecca will distribute the calendar to homes (without staff specific dates/events and only with those events concerning the families).
 - There seems to be difficulties for families accessing their learning journals due to password and pin code. Rebecca to send home instructions and information to Tahar Azrine.

- There also are some problems with accessing Parent Pay in some cases. Morna and Rebecca to send home letters on contributions and how to pay them. Suggested contribution to be £20 for those on low incomes, £40 for medium incomes and £60 for high incomes. Payment methods to be Parent Pay and cash.
- Parent Coffee Mornings could be started. Claudia Romero suggests that a good time would be Saturday morning.
- There has been a recent reduction in SLT support. Elaine Weir suggests that taking away support from Oaklands is wrong, as the support level should be based on need rather than percentage "equality" between schools. Emily and Marisa to contact lead SLT about their concerns relating to the dangers of lowering support level at Oaklands.
- There have been changes in the Council Transition Team. The Transition process is also changing. Morna to e-mail Marisa contact details.
- Friends of Oaklands Charitable Trust. Rebecca to contact Elaine on bank account.
- If families are experiencing ongoing issues with transport, Marisa Wilson is happy to assist. She points out that there is no way to speak to anyone directly at transport. You can only e-mail them about your issues. Ali suggests that the confusion and mess with transport is a mark of poor planning.

5. Next parent council meeting to be on the 28th of November.

6. A.O.B.: School to follow up on Playscheme letters - who has already received one and who has not.

K. Willis (October 2019)