

# MINUTES

## DPS Parent Council

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08/06/2015 19:00-21:00 | Meeting called to order by Amy Cheskin

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### In Attendance

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Parents: Amy Cheskin (Chair), Kate Verrall (Secretary), Jerome Boue and Jim Haley

School representatives: Annemarie Connolly (Head Teacher), Natalie Morrison (Acting Depute Head Teacher), and, Julie McGrinder (Depute Head Teacher).

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### Apologies

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Ulrika Matthews, Hugh Matthews, Angela McNairn, Emily Cutts, and, Karen Craggie.

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### Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes & final Request for AOB items

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Previous minutes approved, no AOB items added.

Actions:

- ▲ **Amy** to forward last two sets of minutes to Jerome to be put on the website
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### Date for next meeting

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AM put forward the date 21/09/2015. It is suggested that the PC AGM is held on the same night.

There was further discussion about the let being free on a Monday 7-9pm or a Friday 6.30-8.30pm. Kate confirmed that she has phoned the Council twice and received the same information. The let still needs to be booked but there should be no cost.

Actions:

- ▲ **Julie** to confirm at the next meeting whether we were charged for the let.
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### Update from Head Teacher

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#### Update – 4R's

AM confirmed the refurb is going ahead. The school is getting: new windows (DG / wood made in Scotland), new blinds for all windows, full electrical re-wire, new carpets (where applicable), fresh paint, new toilets and the old oil based heating system will be replaced with gas. AM confirmed that the plumbing is not changing (so no risk of flooding!)

It is "anticipated" to take 6-9mths but AM is cautiously expecting it to take a bit longer. The school will be refurbished one floor at a time (starting at the top). The toilets will be replaced during school holidays.

Each floor's refurbishment will be fully risk managed and children displaced into other suitable classrooms.

The children will be invited to an assembly to talk about safety on building sites.

The workman will put down their tools anytime children are in the playground.

### **School Roll**

2015-16 will have 11 classes at Dunard. The number of pupils joining P1 changes every day with AM working hard to find a space for every child who is within catchment and accepting some placing requests. As of today it is looking like there will be 61 new P1s = 2 x P1 classes and 1 x P1/2 class. AM is in dialogue with the various nurseries to see which child would best settle into the composite class. The number of pupils in P1-3 changes every day and AM is working to accommodate most.

### **Real life learning**

AM reports that Dunard takes up more Real life learning opportunities than any other school in the area. This sometimes means that events / trips / opportunities are sent out last minute to parents because AM doesn't want the children to miss out on any opportunities. Also, not all eventualities can be planned for.

Dunard pupils have been winning a lot of awards recently in Street Dance, Golf, Athletics, STEM and Maths. 27 pupils now have their work published in a book.

Dunard has also been granted its second Green Eco Flag.

### **Sports Funding**

AM was sad to report that Dunard was not successful in receiving the Sports Funding for the outdoor playground.

### **Staffing**

AM has been interviewing several teachers for permanent positions at Dunard.

### **Deputy Head Teacher Position**

Caroline Linskaill will be the new Deputy Head Teacher at Dunard starting in August.

AM explained why it has taken so long. Glasgow City Council has a system which offers positions to people already employed who have enough SMT (Senior Management Team) points. Caroline chose to come to Dunard and the position was reserved for her. Unfortunately Caroline was unable to leave her current school due to extenuating circumstances meaning she could not be released. There was no way for AM to offer the position to any one else – hence all the 'Acting' positions.

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### **Financial Report**

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Kate reported that the PC currently have £2456.55 in its bank account. Outstanding cheques to come out of the account are:

£11 – Ulrika Matthews

£192 – Julie McGrinder (Leavers gifts)

£221.25 – Natalie Morrison (P1 bags x 75)

Kate wrote cheques for JM & NM.

All discussed having a letter accompany the gifts to say it is from the PC.

**Actions:**

- ^ **Kate** – to get receipts for the cheques she wrote tonight and for the Noticeboard
- ^ **AM/JM/NM** – to confirm how many new P1s started so that the PC know how many bags we have in surplus.
- ^ **Amy** – to write a blurb to accompany gifts and send to AM

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Action points from previous meeting

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The meeting had a brief report back on the action points issued at the previous meeting (see updated Dunard Action log for progress on individual items).

**Parent Council AGM**

To be held 21/09/2015. Suggested that the event be a social wine and cheese for parents to encourage more parents to attend.

Amy highlighted that she would like to ask the Parent Forum what priorities they would like the PC to focus on, so that we can more accurately reflect them and the School.

AM suggested that representatives of the PC attend the afternoon session for P1 parents in August to 'drum up new talent'. All agreed that this would be a good idea.

Amy said that ideally she'd like to see at least one parent from each year group – including nursery – represented on the PC.

**Actions:**

- ^ **Amy** – to e-mail the PC to find out what sort of things they would like represented at the events, and also get ideas on how we can really 'sell' the PC to encourage new members.

**Finances**

Accounts

AM confirmed that the office do not want to hold a joint account.

Amy confirmed that it is not practise within other PCs for the accounts to be combined. The published guidelines state that PCs must have their own separate bank account.

Costs

Julie & Natalie felt that providing a Funding Target Chart is not as effective as communicating to the Parent Forum and spending money on the school and the children now in ways that they can quickly see what it is all for.

Amy suggested that future funding could be divided into monies that would go towards a long term funding target and those that were spent on immediate purchases.

**Actions:**

- ^ **Julie** – to e-mail list of routine yearly costs they would like the PC to cover.
- ^ **Julie** – to confirm outstanding Christmas Fayre debt to be met by PC.

### Printing

Julie let everyone know that it is impractical for the office to work out how much it cost to print a single piece of paper.

AM said that Dunard are happy to print flyers for the PC. The schools full year printing costs are £1874, and they would be grateful for any donation the PC towards printing costs.

Amy highlighted that his time round the calling notice was placed directly on the noticeboard to save on printing. AM told us that we can request that a text reminder is sent from the office for the PC meeting. This is free.

### Flagpole

Discussed the merits of displaying the Green Eco Flag. Amy highlighted that due to the refurbishments this was probably not practical at present.

Julie & Natalie both expressed reservations as to the long-term practicality of such an item due to weather damage.

All agreed to revisit the idea of a flagpole once the building renovations have been completed.

### Nursery Playhouse

All discussed funding a playhouse for the Nursery to be placed in the lower playground. AM confirmed that it would be far enough away from the building so that it didn't cause a fire hazard. Jim expressed concern that the P1-3 children may climb all over it creating a health & safety issue. AM countered that there is always a member of staff in the playground when children are at play and so it wouldn't be a problem.

AM has seen a particular wooden playhouse from COSTCO that is moveable and costs around £290.

### **Actions:**

- ^ **Amy** – to e-mail the PC to agree a donation amount.
- ^ **Amy** – to ask the office to text for future meetings
- ^ **Amy** – to find a link to the COSTCO house and forward to PC members for approval.

### **Library**

Due to refurbishments, the "library" space is being turned into a classroom for the new term.

AM suggested that it might be useful to acquire some revolving towers for books as these could be moved around. She estimated the cost to be £350 per tower.

### **ITC Suite Estimates**

The exact figures change daily but AM provided a ballpark as follows:

£1800-1900 for one Smart board and projector

£800 per PC

The school would ideally need 1 x mobile Smart board and projector and 15/16PCs. As part of the new school refurbishment they are being left with a powerful modem and WIFI.

### **Actions:**

- ^ **All** – to look for sources of funding.

### **New Web Guidelines**

AM confirmed that they have received new guidelines from GCC. Jerome advised staying with the status quo because it has a better look and the website is the first thing that the parents see.

**Actions:**

- ^ **Jerome** – to forward new guidelines to Amy for info.

**Smoking/Idling/Dog foul**

Amy thanked Jim for his efforts to get the car idling signage. She also thanked the School for their efforts re: idling and smoking posters.

All discussed the issue of persistent offenders. AM suggested that we all need to report it on a regular basis to get authorities to patrol.

**Actions:**

- ^ **Jim** - to provide number to report car idling
- ^ **Amy** – to ask Angela to provide number to report dog foul

**Actions not discussed due to time limitations**

- ^ **All** - BEMIS
- ^ **Emily** - PVG

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**Changes in Office Bearers**

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Kate will be unable to continue the position of treasurer next year as she is moving away from the area. Amy also highlighted that Ulrika would be adopting in the summer and so she may also be unable to continue the position of secretary.

**Actions:**

- ^ **All** – to consider what roles they could potentially take on.

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**Items raised by DPC and parent forum**

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**Absence Reporting Line**

Jerome asked about the absence reporting line. AM confirmed that it had be set up to free-up time for office staff. She also confirmed that absences were always reported to GCC. Jerome asked about the need to provide a letter to the school for a medical appointment. AM told us that it was at the schools discretion and that they trust the parents to be telling the truth. However if it was regular weekly /monthly appointments they would need to see something from the medical practitioner.

AM reported that if a child is absence they would phone/text the parent/carer in the first instance, and only where there was no response would they follow it up further.

AM highlighted the improvement on the number of pupils with 100% attendance. 3 years ago it was only 2 children, 2 years ago it was 14, and last year it was 20.

**Speed Limit Maryhill Road**

Cars speeding down Maryhill Road have almost run down the lollypop lady on two occasions. There should be signage in place to designate the school's area but parents in the room confessed having never seen it.

**Actions:**

- ^ **All** – to consider ways we can help reduce the speed limit on Maryhill Road as it crosses Braeside & Dunard Street.

### **Dogs in the School Playground**

There are a number of small dogs that have recently been spotted in the playground. AM highlighted that it is everybody's responsibility to enforce the NO dog's rule. It is a matter of safety in case they bit a child or fouled in the playground.

### **Survey of Parents views**

This was not discussed beyond the suggestion that the information is gathered at the AGM/Social in September.

### **Items not discussed due to time limitations**

- ^ Named Person Scheme

Meeting adjourned at 21.00