



Prospect Bank School Parent Council

81 Restalrig Road, Edinburgh EH6 8BQ

Minutes from Parent Council Meeting
Tuesday 15th November @ 10:30am

Parents: John Brewser; Melat Chaka; Lubna Isam Mohammed; Tida Jammeh; Carmine MacKenzie; Kristine Tumbaga

School: Sandra Ali (Acting Head Teacher)

Apologies: Alison Cairney-Page; Gillian Grigor; Val Watt (Acting DHT)

Chairperson- Kristine Tumbaga

Treasurer- Tida Jammeh

Introductions

What do Parent Councils do and why they are important

Sandra shared information on parent council duties and how we hope to continue to have a strong parent council. (see attached) It was explained that we will meet once a term and we needed to appoint a Chairperson and a Treasurer.

This years' Treasurer will be Tida and the Chairperson will be Kristine.

Action – *Sandra to share further information with all members and more details for Tida and Kristine. The bank account will be transferred via the previous treasurer.*

FOPB- Playground Fund Raising

Sandra shared information on the playground improvements we are planning for the playground outside Oak class. Previously there was trim track in this playground but it was removed more than a year ago as it was unsafe. We have had 2 companies in to look at the area and help us plan for a new climbing frame and see-saw rocker toy. As well as this we are going to put a new soft surface down to ensure the safety of the children.

We have received a plan to create a better space, we have costings for the equipment and are now awaiting the costings for the surface. It would seem it will be approximately £35,000 but we will get more information soon.

We are also looking for any companies/local businesses that might help with the fundraising.

Carmine suggested 2 local places who may help

- *The Hub on Restalrig Road*
- *Craigentinny Community Centre*
- *Heather who was our school cleaner has a donation of £2000 from her church to help with costings.*

Actions

- *Sandra to send info to all members of the pupil council*
- *Paper copies to share with businesses*
- *Lubna is a designer and can help create visuals to support our funding. Sandra to send photos and information to her ASAP*
- *Carmine to contact the Hub and the Community Centre*

Pupil Support Officer - New Post

Sandra explained about the Pupil Support Officer post that we are hoping to fill today after interviews. This is for 2 days a week until June 2023. We are however hoping it might be extended after that.

The successful candidate will be able to offer support to families with a variety of things including:

- *Strategies for home*
- *Advice about other agencies*
- *advice about DLA and other supports*
- *Support with Social Work*

PEF Money (Pupil Equity Fund)

This years PEF money has been spent on

- *Play Therapy - 1 day a week with Lisa Bywater, Play Therapist from With Kids weekly sessions with individual pupils and supporting them and their families.*
- *Mobile Phones- class mobile phones have proved to be the best way of communicating and also the parents can see photos/videos of their child at school and send things from home to share with the staff*
- *PSO- Pupil Support Officer post Jan-June 2023*
- *Taxis for parents/families – school provides taxis to support parents to get to meetings or collect their child if they are unwell*

Sibling Initiative

We previously ran a sibling initiative in school where siblings could visit the school and see their brother or sisters in class. This is something we would like to re instate. Perhaps with help from our new Pupil Support Officer. We will be offering visits/workshops for the siblings in school.

Any Other Business

- **Toileting - Pine Changing Bed**

As a school the pupil profile is changing all the time. In August '21 we were able to have a changing room toilet added to Oak class to support the children who are still in nappies. This is something that is beginning to be needed more in school.

Pine class have the toilet area but no changing bed. They currently have children that would benefit from this type of changing area. It is something we need to bring to the attention of Health and Safety and see how we can plan for work to be undertaken in this area possibly next summer.

Action

Sandra to contact the council to ask about this work being undertaken.

- **School lunches**- Currently school lunches in mainstream schools are free up to P5. All children in Special Schools have been entitled to a free school meal since August 2022. Prospect Bank Parents were informed of this change by email on 28th June'22
- **Scottish Child's Benefit** - Carmine said that there is a new benefit that has been outlined and she has had information about it

Action

Carmine to find out more and share with Sandra

- **Winter Warm Payment** - now for children with disabilities £150- go to suppliers Warm Home Discount - There is a new payment available for parents of children with disabilities to help with home electricity. This has just been launched. Parents in Scotland have to apply for it through their energy company

Action

Carmine will find out more information and share with Sandra so it can be shared with all parents

- **Mi Fi** – access to free Wi-Fi for parents- This has been shared with school

Action

Sandra will get in touch with the council to find out more about this

- **Scottish Disability Payment** - for Christmas present support £130 – Tida had accessed this previously and said she found it very helpful

Action

Tida find out more and share info with Sandra to share with parents

Date of Next Meeting: 16th January '23 - 10:30-11:30am