

Corstorphine Primary School Parent Council
*Corstorphine Primary School, High Street, Corstorphine
Edinburgh, EH12 7SY*

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting

Thursday, 3 September 2015

Present: Jennifer Ross (Head Teacher)
Audrey McColl (Chair)
Billy Samuel (Deputy Chair)
Kay Barclay (Parent Member)
Aleks Tomczyk (Parent Member)
Bill Halliday (PTA Representative)
Shona Richardson (Staff Rep.)
Sarah Cavanagh (Staff Representative)
Louise Sibbald (Staff Representative)
Jennifer Farrar (Parent Member)
Gillian Farrell (Parent Member)
Karine Masting (Parent Member)
Elinor Waterston (Treasurer)
Carol Christie (Parent Member)
Cllr. P Edie

In attendance: Karen Ladomery (Clerk)

1. **Apologies:** Moira McDonald
2. **Minutes of last Parent Council Meetings (9 June 2015) and Matters Arising**

Kitchen. Unfortunately, the hatch was not modified during the summer holidays. This job is still outstanding and causing serious problems in the dining room. A mobile salad bar has been supplied.

Street Markings. The Council has undertaken to repaint the faded road markings around the School.

Boys' Toilets. This matter was raised by the Deputy Chair at the last meeting of the West Neighbourhood Group, but it is extremely unlikely that any funds will be made available to rectify this situation in the near future. The Parent Council will continue to press for the work to be carried out.

The minutes were approved as read.

3. **Updates from Parent Council sub-groups**

Grounds Development. The Deputy Chair presented a summary from Project Play. The Treasurer informed the Parent Council that a total of £4,000 still needs to be raised by November, which is the deadline for the grant application to Sports Scotland for matched funding. Cllr Edie suggested some contacts which might be worth following up, including contacting the Drumbrae Hub and Corstorphine Community Council for further neighbourhood grants, if not already done so.

Parents Focus Group. Following the initial feedback from parents, staff have put together a plan regarding "life skills" and this had been sent to a group of parents for more feedback. It will then be

presented to the whole staff body. Mrs. Ross informed the Parent Council that skills for work also need to be looked at. The combined Life skills programme will be implemented in the next session.

School Policy Group. The response to the Homework survey has been very high – 264 replies have been received and the comments are extremely useful. The next step is to arrange a meeting with the Mrs Ross to present the conclusions. There will then be discussions with staff and pupils.

There was a discussion around “Creative Hub”, now taking place every Friday. It was raised that some parents were not clear on what was required of parents / children. Mrs Ross stated that she had also received this feedback and more information will be provided

4. Financial Update.

The current bank balance stands at £3136. Out of this, £1,000 is committed to Mr. Wuffles. This leaves a total of £2,000 in un-allocated funds.

Mrs Ross withdrew her request to the Parent Council to consider funding Parentmail. Instead, she requested the Parent Council consider allocating funding to Project Play to help towards the shortfall in necessary funding. It was agreed that surplus funds (£1,600) would be passed to Project Play.

5. West Neighbourhood Group

Billy attended this recent meeting for Parent Council Chairs and Head Teacher representatives. The talk focussed on the budget and the re-organisation of community services into 4 “Locations” as opposed to the current 5 “Neighbourhood” areas within Edinburgh. Craigmount is in the NW Edinburgh Location which includes another 7 High Schools and all the feeder Primary Schools, so it is a very large area.

Other issues discussed included:

- General exam performance (Edinburgh is doing well);
- On-line payment options within Schools – this is being taken forward on a National basis. This matter is being referred up to the CCWP (Consultative Committee with Parents), requesting that the causes of the long delays in implementation are looked into;
- Recruitment of more foster carers;
- Request for parents to sit on Appeal Committees.

Billy raised the matters of the boys’ toilets and school meal provision. No other Schools reported any problems with the school meal provision and it was suggested that we organise a meeting with the Facilities Manager.

At each meeting there will now be time set aside to share good practice ideas between Parent Council representatives. Billy will offer to provide an overview of our support for Mr Wuffles week and the review of the homework policy.

6. Head Teacher’s Report (Mrs. Ross)

Scottish Learning Festival. Corstorphine has been asked to man Edinburgh’s stall at the Edinburgh Learning Festival on the Mr Wuffles and Creativity theme.

Creative Exchange. Mrs Ross has been asked to give a presentation next month at the National Galleries on “Creative Exchange”. This information will be in the next Newsletter.

Staff. Recruitment is currently taking place for a new PSA. A new temporary administrator started yesterday.

Nursery Build. There has been a recent meeting with the Project Manager to discuss the space issues for the Nursery playground. To meet regulations for playground space for the new nursery whilst minimising any impact of the overall school playground, it has been proposed that part of the nursery/school playground will be shared at separate times. This proposal will allow for access around the whole School. A revised plan will now be drawn up and submitted to the Planning Department for final approval. Unfortunately, this may now result in delay in the build. The project is now going out to tender again and it doesn't seem likely that the build will be finished by August 2016.

Behaviour Policy. (Louise Sibbald gave a short presentation on the new policy). The School Behaviour Policy is being adapted, following Council guidelines, and will be implemented in full after the October break. Craigmount has already adopted these new policies based on Rights Respecting Schools and Restorative Approaches. More focus will be placed on encouraging restorative behaviour, allowing chances to re-build relationships. Tracking sheets will no longer be visible on the walls and more visuals will be used to display the rules. Concern was raised by one member of the Parent Council that pupils seemed to now believe behaving badly carried no consequences, as tracking sheets were being removed. Mrs. Ross will be explaining the new system to both pupils and parents so it is fully understood. It will be introduced at the September curriculum meeting.

P1 Intake. The P1 intake this year was 87 children, divided into 3 classes of 25, 25 and 37, with three reserved places for catchment children. The total school this year has reached 523 and the School is really feeling a severe lack of space. The new extension has not resolved the shortage of General Purpose space.

Standardisation of Tests. There was a discussion on media reports regarding Scottish Government proposals on pupil attainment, particularly in relation to testing. There had been insufficient time to review the proposals in detail, specifically the proposal for standardised testing for P1, P4, P7 and S2. Mrs. Ross noted that there is currently testing, but the approach is not standardised across Scotland.

7. Parent Forum (AGM)

The Parent Forum meeting will be held on 8 October in the Lantern Wing. There will be on-screen presentations on matters of interest over the past year, with members of the Parent Council who are most involved with a particular programme to give the presentation. Suggested presentations are: Project Play, Mr. Wuffles, Homework Policy, reports from the Policy Groups.

A Financial Report will also be presented and the accounts will be presented for approval.

The Chair will be stepping down and given last year's increase to the number of positions within the Parent Council there are 8 parent places now open for election. The Chair noted that she had valued having a Deputy Chair and hoped that someone would volunteer to fill that post to support the incoming Chair.

8. AOB

Playground. It was noted that there were instances of children having scooters in the playground, that there were also instances of dogs being taken into the playground and that it was difficult to get round the school due to the volume of parents of P1 children congregating while waiting for lines to enter the School. Mrs. Ross will look into these concerns.

Toilet Access. Concern was raised over access to toilets during break. Mrs. Ross will speak to the PSAs to ensure children can access the toilets.

9. Future Agenda Items:

- Updates from Sub-groups

10. Date of next meeting: The Parent Forum will be held on 8 October 2015 in the new extension.

Future Dates:

8 October 2015 (Parent Forum)
3 December 2015
21 January 2016
17 March 2016
9 June 2016