



### **Calderwood Parent Council - Minutes of Meeting held on 2nd October 2008**

**Present:** Gordon Brownlie, Mark Reilly, Bronah Byrne, Lesley Doherty, Ailsa McMillan, Nancy Palmer, Ann Kerr, Simon Ross, Lucy Blake, Sheona Brightey, Liz Coomber, Fraser Hamilton, James Millar, Linda Gardner, Councillor Eileen Baxendale

**Apologies:** Angela Dobelis, Lesley McAteer, Wilma Scott, Jacqueline Chen, Roz Haughey, Fiona Bain, Jill Loftus, Angela Caldwell, Leah Franchetti, Maureen Watt, Jillian Ring

Minutes: AGM and September Minutes approved

#### **Correspondence**

- Newsletters/ Backchats available from Gordon for perusal by Council members.
- Important point raised by Scottish Parent Teacher Council (SPTC), they are not a Government Body they are a Parent / Teacher organisation owned and funded by its membership, and it is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> year. The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting and combined AGM will be held on the Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November and is being hosted at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, from 10am and includes lunch and a tour of the Parliament. Members are allowed to apply for 2 spaces if they so wish, due to the security as you have to be cleared in advance. No-one can just turn up and be allowed in. Anyone interested in going please let GB know as GB has the registration/application form for attendance at conference.
- Also the SPTC have published a leaflet "Registering with the CRBS " a step-by step guide. This is useful if we want to have more volunteers with disclosures as once registered we can get these processed FOC. This has no advantage for the school financially as at present they are not charged for these checks.
- Letter received from Academy Uniforms with offers to make our uniforms. Prices were attached and Ailsa advised that some prices are the same however 3 items were more expensive. Agreed to write and advise that have a contract for this year however will arrange a meeting for next year March 09 to

discuss. One advantage with this supplier is that they can print the pupils name on the item. Fraser agreed to assist with any future discussions.

- Letter received from the Scottish Parent Teacher Association (SPTA) based in Dumfries. Some may remember some letters offering membership last year. We didn't bother as we were, by virtue of our insurance with the SPTC, members of that body. However the SPTA have written to say that they have set up in our name an e mail address, without consulting us. In addition it would be their intention to publish this. Therefore GB writing to them to instruct them to halt this process as we have our own set up and our own e mail set up and back up systems and their actions do not have our approval.
- Jill Loftus advised Gordon of a potential banner for website to allow extra revenue stream. Gillian Cowe has also discussed a similar set up that could be linked to the schools website. Is a means of generating some extra income. Gordon agreed to investigate this matter further.
- Letter & newsletter received from our MSP James Kelly and is available for any members to read. Refer to correspondence from James under Finance section for more details.
- Details received for this years Generation Science program for schools. Last years we sponsored and the whole school benefited and the feedback from staff and pupils was excellent. Linda Gardner gave a summary of last years successful events and agreed to finance 2 workshops. Linda will investigate the most suitable workshops. Each workshop costs £350.
- School Planning Consultative Group has made some initial suggestions for the 'wish' list. 5 more cameras & cases are requested. Agreed to defer until discuss costs with Lesley M.

### **Finance & Events Sub Group**

- Letter to parents regarding potential events to gauge interest has been issued. Spree Book letter has been readied and will go out tomorrow.
- **It has been suggested that we have a sub group meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 7.30pm at the Burnside Hotel. All welcome.**
- GB agreed to sit in on school finance meetings. Next on being 19<sup>th</sup> November
- Letter from Claire Diggie at South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) regarding Funding Fairs for voluntary organisations looking for funding for the arts. Possible funding option for the Choir. The next Fair is Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2009, 6pm until 9pm at Rutherglen Town Hall. Agreed that this would be worthwhile and will raise the matter with Wilma and Ms Grey.
- Letter re school funding received from James Kelly: James had investigated funding in general. Although the report is detailed it reflects documents that are published by SLC and we would challenge the conclusion that it draws. For example it does not highlight the accepted convention that Headteacher's budgets are made up of approximately 85% of the budget already beyond their control. Example: Fictitious budget of £500,000 and require a 2.25% efficiency saving. 2.25% of 500k is £11,250. If we have already said that 85% of the 500k is out-with the direct control of the headteacher this means we are left with £75,000 and have to apply £11,250 of savings. £11,250 from a budget of £75,000 equates to a **15%** cut on the available resources available to the headteacher. Therefore we simply need to keep the pressure on SLC to avoid being simply dealt another blow such as another 2.25% saving. GB to

write back to James and thank him but also pointing out the calculation as listed above.

- In response to funding concerns Councillor Baxendale advised that all council reports indicate that front line services should not be affected by any funding cuts. Although Councillor Baxendale does not serve on the Education Committee her colleague Councillor David Bailey does. Councillor Baxendale advised that any concerns re the affect on front line services / education cuts can be passed on to herself / Councillor Baillie. The next Education/ Budget meeting at SLC is on 9 December. The papers for this meeting should be available on SLC's website on 4 December and Councillor Baxendale has advised that these may be worth checking.
- In terms of monies available Councillor Baxendale advised that there was some available from the Integrated Children's Services Budget. This service can be used to assist schools in areas where additional expertise is necessary. Usually used to assist disadvantaged groups. The school has already applied for additional support for Polish families.

### **Auditor & Financial report**

- The signed off budget and AGM minutes have to be forwarded to slc.
- Mark provided a budget report (*I forgot to get copy for the minutes – see Mark*)

### **Events**

- Halloween Disco Arrangements - Roz has prepared the letter which is normally issued 2 weeks before the event. Jacqui usually contacts volunteer parent helpers .Discuss further on 22/10/08 at Burnside Hotel
- (Winter ) Fashion Night - Discuss further on 22/10/08 at Burnside Hotel.
- Pantomime Booking has been confirmed as 21<sup>st</sup> November.
- Christmas Fair - defer arrangements until next meeting or go early to cash & carry.

### **Communications**

- Website is now completely up to date. With exception of a couple of paintings of our new teachers.
- Ann Kerr has requested that someone picks up some art work for going on to site. Gordon will ask Lesley M
- E mail from Gillian Cowe re a banner that links onto insurance website etc that pays a fee to us? Do we want to take advantage?. Gillian uses this herself to raise money for a charity she is involved with for rescued dogs. As detailed previously – Gordon to investigate further.
- Ailsa highlighted a concern from a parent who attempted to forward an enquiry to the Parent Council via the website. Gordon will investigate the matter. (please note that subsequent to this meeting an error was found and this has since been rectified.)

### **Greater Community & Learning Community**

- Email received from David Geddes following a complaint raised by the Girl's Brigade at Stonelaw Church concerning the number of events run on Thursday evening at Calderwood which conflicts with the Girls Brigade meetings on

that evening. GB read the e mail to the meeting. Discussion was had re the tradition of having the school discos on Thursday evenings. Ann Kerr advised that due to the inevitable excitement that such events bring and the after effects of tiredness following the discos the school has always encouraged Thursday nights as the most suitable evening for such events. The Parent Council only runs 4 disco's a year and felt that this was reasonable. Agreed that would ask Jacqui or Lesley to pen a diplomatic to David for passing on to the original complainant.

### **Parent concerns & future plans**

- From the tear off slips: No new inputs received and no new enquiries via the web.
- Progress report on music and language classes plus Breakfast and After School Clubs – awaiting Angela's feedback
- Fraser asked if there had been any further updates re 'stranger danger' alert following last months 'incidents'. Councillor Baxendale advised that she has held a meeting with the local police – no new incidents have been reported however the matter will continue to be monitored.
- Ann Kerr advised that there has been low level of permission returns for the use of pupils photos for the website. This response may have been affected by the recent events. General discussion was had re the possibility of making access to photographs more secure (eg use of password protection). Gordon agreed to discuss this with Gillian Cowe (web site co-ordinator))
- Ailsa advised that her application to her employers (Royal Bank of Scotland) for grant assistance to help set up a garden has been successful! A £4000 grant has been awarded to Calderwood to help set up a garden. As part of the award support via 'Learning through landscapes' will be used. All members of the Parent Council extended our delight and thanks to Ailsa and the Royal Bank of Scotland. Timescale for the project is November – February. Cambuslang Health Initiative have also volunteered to give advice on matters such as what veg can be grown successfully etc.
- To support our garden Ailsa advised that Morrison's are issuing 'Grow More' vouchers. These vouchers can be used to obtain garden equipment and seeds. There is a limited time that the vouchers will be issued for however it was agreed that it would be worthwhile asking for local support in collecting these vouchers.
- Agreed that it may also be useful to approach Langside College for landscaping / gardening advice / joint initiative as their agricultural college is in same street!
- Parking concerns at Stonelaw High were once again raised. Councillor Baxendale agreed to discuss the matter with the roads department with the possibility of double yellow lines being considered.
- Ailsa asked for volunteers for Parents night to help at the school uniform sales on Thursday 6 November.
- Bronah advised that new Yellow Moon catalogues are due for distribution.

### **H/T Report**

September

5 First Pupil Council meeting-Selecting Office bearers.

- Fire Drill-2 minutes 15seconds-orderly evacuation  
Meeting for our J.R.S.Officers
- 8 P1 Pupils commenced full time.
- 12 P7 to Crucial Crew event East Kilbride
- 16 8X P6 children to Enterprise is the Business in Rutherglen Town Hall  
Val Brown presented children with Library Certificates for Summer Reading Programme
- 23 Drug Awareness event at Cambuslang Institute for P6
- 24 Day of action but Calderwood open with reduced services-e.g. no lunches[packed lunches in Hall or older children outside at their request]no cleaning or crossing patrols.
- 25 Fun Fitness Day-a wonderful event with fantastic support-to date £3500+ raised for school funds!
- 26-29 September weekend
- 30 Road Safety entries sent in  
Letter sent to parents re:Miss Hamilton P5 leaving October
- 2 Assembly-David Geddes+P6 input on Recycling

**Date and Time of Next Meeting**

*13<sup>th</sup> November 2008 7pm Staff Room*