

Gowriehill Parent Council Meeting – 17/11/14

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

- Heather opened the meeting and welcomed our new members. We did round the table introductions. Apologies were noted from Simon Campbell.

2. Feedback from the Hallowe'en Party;

- Heather has received an email from Jackie Campbell, thanking the PC for their hard work and participation with the Hallowe'en party, all the staff and pupils felt it was a lot of fun and enjoyed it a lot. Special thanks for Claire and her husband for the disco and the games and keeping all the pupils entertained.
- Heather asked if anyone had any changes that they would suggest to which there were none.

3. Angie Hastie – Communities Officer – Lochee;

- Angie advised she was here to discuss a few items with the PC that she had also discussed with the Hillside PC – around developments in the area and the new primary school.
 - Menzieshill Area – there is going to be a new play area beside the Lynch Centre – this should open in June 2015 with a big launch event planned. This play area will have an outdoor gym, a skate park, a zip wire amongst other items. The park on Spey Drive has had a make-over – new play items and fresh paint.
 - There is a Regeneration group who are looking at giving funding to Menzieshill and building natural walking trails through the estate, making these educational and fun and focusing on Menzieshill's place in the city (using the landmarks you can see from the area to theme the walks). Community contributions for this will be vital and Angie will bring us more news when she has it.
 - New Primary school – There is a meeting on the 2nd Dec in Menzieshill High School's assembly hall for parent council members and staff to view the masterplan of the new school and surrounding area.
 - Angie has been pushing to keep the focus on the outdoor areas within the school to make sure we get what we need before building work starts so that those needs aren't pushed to the side.
 - It's a like-for-like scenario and while the budget is small, if we intervene early, we can not only get like for like but be able to push for more. And the early start will help us raise funds.

4. Feedback from city wide Chairperson Meeting

- This item was carried forward to the next meeting – in light of other last minute AOCB. Heather did highlight 2 items that were discussed
 - Would a school ever close due to lack of staff – No was the answer. There are processes in place that would allow the school to function as normal if this happened.

- There is showcase event at Morgan in March 2015 where we will be invited to attend and show what we are good at.

5. Treasurer Report

- We made £106 profit from the Hallowe'en disco and have £233 in the bank.

6. 1+2 leaflet – Modern Languages in Primary

- This item was carried forward to the next meeting – as per item 4.
- Heather and Jackie did highlight that P1's are being taught French at present and it's easier to introduce this in P1 as they have no expectations of work and just take it all in. Jackie advised Hillside had been the pilot for this and as such, are further along in the programme. The benefits of this are that they can share resource with Gowriehill.
- The programme is immersive so it's not just learning French at set times, its incorporated into the whole school day.

7. New School

- This item was touched on in item 3 with Angie and it merged with discussions about the proposed closure of Menzieshill High School (this is due for discussion on 24/11 by the council education committee).
- Concerns were raised around the communication of this news, the impact it will have on the area, individual parent concerns.
- A letter was sent home from Gowriehill on the 17th and that was as much info as anyone had.
- All members were advised that should anyone get a call from the local papers, that they are to make no comment.

8. Christmas Event

- The date agreed was 4th Dec 2014 18.30 and this will be an inside event.
- The hall will be set up with the chairs in a U shape and torches available to create the atmosphere.
- Confirmed activities;
 - Stalls – cake and candy, chocolate tombola, raffle for hamper.
 - Refreshments – shortbread, warm juice, tea and coffee.
 - What's on – Salvation Army band, carol singing, choir, some nativity songs.
- The school will hold a 'Dress as you please' day and take 'payment' in the form of chocolate for the tombola or items for the hamper

9. AOCB

- Parent council leaflet – Stephen had completed his re-vamp of this and it was very well received by the council – it looks clean, uncluttered, still contains all the relevant information – well done Stephen.
- We are able to claim £100 for expenses (photocopying) so Heather is going to do this.
- Next Parent Council Meeting is set for the 8th Dec 18.00