

SOUTH MORNINGSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

SOUTH MORNINGSIDE PARENT COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the SMPC meeting held on Monday 8th June 2015 at 6.45pm in the staff room.

Total Attendees: (23)

Parent Council Members (18)

Craig Hilton (Chair)	Ellie Trotter
Alison Dalrymple (Treasurer)	Alan Rehfish (Transport)
Susanna Waller (Secretary)	Priyanka Kulasegaram
Noelle O'Doherty (MCC Link)	Elizabeth Grierson *(Head Teacher)
Nikki McNair	Fiona Gilmour *
Jamie Bookless	Lauren Jack *
Eileen Maclean	Yvonne Moore*
Howard Kippax (Accommodation)	Pam Ferguson*
Marion Bourbouze	
Olly Headey (Comms)	

Parent council made up of 13 Parent Members plus 56* non-voting staff members

Guests (5)

Joanna Loxley (parent)	Joanna Pentland (parent)
Kirstin Beard (parent)	Colin MacRae (parent)
Chris Hebden (parent)	

Apologies (12) received in advance of the meeting

Miriam Jackson	Brian Sharp
Deborah Murphy	Cllr Sandy Howat
Lesley Macniven	Andy Maciver
Susan Morgan *(Acting Head)	Vanessa Charlton
Cllr Mark McInnes	Cllr Melanie Main
Sarah Caney	Morag Macdonald*

6.45 Welcome, attendees and apologies - Craig Hilton (Chair) and Susanna Waller (Secretary)

The Chair welcomed all attendees and confirmed the apologies that had been received prior to the meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2015 were approved. (8 in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention).

6.50 Review of matters arising & actions from the last meeting – Craig Hilton (Chair)

#07/14: Disposal of IT Equipment – Jonathan Mundy will continue to look into this and report back.

#02/15: Afterschool Club provision for the annexe – Priyanka Kulasegaram reported back on this issue. There is capacity for 50 children. The Deanbank afterschool club will have to submit a separate registration. Anita has all the paper work for this. The P1 and P2 children will be unable to use the breakfast/afterschool club until the week of 24th August. Priyanka was asked if they would be able to find alternative accommodation for those days, however Anita has said that staffing is main the issue so the clubs will be unable to run.

#12/15: Query lunchtime drinks at South Neighbourhood Group – Vanessa Charlton is still looking into it and will speak on this at next meeting.

#15/15: Holiday club cover 24-26th June for p1&p2 children – Priyanka Kulasegaram reported that Anita will be sending a parentmail to all P1 and P2's to offer childcare places for these additional days. Priority would be given to children already enrolled however there would still be places available.

6.55 Report: Chair (paper submitted by Craig Hilton).

- Craig summarized all the achievements of the PC over the last academic year and thanked everyone for their hard work. He also outlined areas to be addressed by the PC next term.

7.00 Report: Head Teacher (paper submitted by Elizabeth Grierson).

- Mrs Grierson wanted to thank everyone who helped out with the Summer Fair, especially Fiona Kippax. She also wanted to thank Brian and the volunteers who cleared out the Shed. Mrs Grierson reported back on a very successful and enjoyable sports day.

- The cap on P1 children has been raised to 99. There are currently 98 enrolled catchment children.

- The update on the exceptional closure days for all P1 and P2 children was confirmed in the May newsletter.

- The resources for the infant annexe and the capital spend budget have all now been approved. Communication from the council about resource allocation and the budget implications were very late. This has affected equipment ordering etc. The packing is now underway for the move to Deanbank. Two days of deputy head time and a percentage of time for running an office has been approved. However, the additional deputy head days are only for the first year. No business manager time has been allocated, which has concerned Margo O'Connor our Business Manager. Mrs Grierson said she might have to see if there is any money in the school budget to cover the necessary staff time.

- Mrs Grierson has asked for help from the council in identifying a safe route to Deanbank. She would like the Transport Group to help with communicating this to parents before the Summer holidays.

- Three members of staff: Mrs Gaffney, Mrs McLennan and Mrs Symon are retiring this summer. Interviews for teaching posts have been taking place.

- Joanna Loxley asked about the gender imbalances within some houses at class level, which can cause upset for individual pupils. Mrs Moore said they would address this issue and were intending to look at the balance between the houses.

- Priyanka Kulasegaram asked whether clubs would be allowed to operate from the Deanbank annexe. Mrs Grierson said that this should be possible after the annexe has fully settled in. However, there are issues such as access controls which will need to be addressed first.

The Improvement priorities for 2015-16

1) There will be a new initiative on Modern languages called 1+2. The aim is for all primary children to leave with two Languages one of which will be either French or German. Conversational language classes will be introduced from nursery to P7. There will be a phased cluster implementation over 3 years, leading to the aim of all P7 children being secure at level 2 French or German.

2) Mrs Grierson says that attainment in language and literacy is very high at South Morningside, but she wants to assess further what the school has added to improve the performance of the pupils in this area. She wants to increase the breadth of reading experiences and the genres used within the Language and Literacy programme as required by the Curriculum for Excellence.

3) The school will focus on improving attainment in maths and numeracy by creating a clear and progressive programme, looking at best learning and teaching practices and setting a minimum expectation for attainment in maths and numeracy.

4) MADD Mrs Grierson expressed her enthusiasm for next year's planned link between the expressive art of Sculpture and the literacy programme. All teachers are to attend a CPD day at Jupiter ArtLand and all P3-7 classes will visit Jupiter ArtLand where they will be introduced to sculpture linked to storytelling. The younger years will visit the modern art gallery to study sculpture and the work of Eduardo Paolozzi.

5) Promoting the whole school ethos will also continue to be addressed in 2015-16. Mrs Grierson said the school would continue to think creatively about how to promote this. The school was asked about how frequently the various sites will interact. Mrs Moore said that house events will be held every term and 2-3 times a term pupils from the different sites will be brought together. The Buddy programme will continue.

7.10 Report: Treasurer (paper submitted by Alison Dalrymple).

The surplus from the summer fair is expected to be around £7000.

7.15 Review of Funding Requests/Finance Group Update (paper submitted by Miriam Jackson and delivered by Alison Dalrymple)

1) Funding for 8 new storage crates for the shed at £50 and a good battery operated camping lamp will cost a further £50.

Vote: 12 in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention by treasurer.

2) On-going annual expenditure for 2015-16 £9,550.

Vote: 12 in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention by treasurer.

3) Two new sets of football goals £1,390

Vote: 12 in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention by treasurer.

4) Stage club have asked if they can have the £400 surplus raised from photographs and DVDs to cover expenses for next year, such as booking rehearsal space.

Vote: 12 in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention by treasurer.

5) The Girl's football club wanted to apply for funding, but Alison Dalrymple and Craig Hilton will clarify exactly what their funding request consists of. This matter is deferred. (#16/15)

7.25 Standing Agenda items:

a) Accommodation update (paper submitted by Howard Kippax) – The Deanbank Annexe appears to be on schedule for August. Howard Kippax will send a letter to the council regarding funding and resources for Deanbank. (#17/15) Mrs Grierson says the school is arguing for a senior management presence on site.

- The Children and Families Department are to start a consultation process between August and October about the overcrowding in schools in Edinburgh South. They are hoping to reach a decision by February 2016. The statutory consultation will involve South

Morningside, Bruntsfield, Gillespies and St Peter's Primary schools. The MCC will also have an important role. Any decision will affect the catchment for our school. A meeting of our PC Accommodation Group and the council took place on 5th June, but Anna Cuthbert was unable to attend tonight to report back. The PC will need to consider the options laid out in Howard's report and seek the views of the parent body. A letter will be sent out to the parent body to coincide with the start of the consultation period. (#18/15)

b) Clubs Group – A clubs co-ordinator is still needed. The next meeting of the clubs group is Wednesday 17th June 2015.

c) Fundraising – The summer fair was a great success. Howard Kippax pointed out that if the huts are not around next year we will have less space to use for fundraising and this could mean we make less money.

d) Morningside Community Council – Noelle O'Doherty reported that the Friends of Craighouse were currently raising money and wished to try and seek a judicial review of the Craighouse Development Project. Cllr Godzik attended the last MCC meeting and was asked about parking in relation to Deanbank. The council's position is that no provision will be made for drop off and pickups as they expect most parents to walk their children to school.

-Priyanka Kulasegaram reported there were regularly older children in the playground between 8:30pm – 11pm and she has had to call the police on a number of occasions. Mrs Grierson encouraged anyone aware of out of hours intrusions in the playground to call the police. The school has also spoken to the police about this. The council have refused to fund CCTV.

e) Transport (Interim Survey Results submitted by Alan Rehfish) – Alan reported that 138 responses had been obtained to the online Deanbank Travel Survey launched on 12th May 2015. This is a very good response rate and he summarised the key findings for the PC meeting. He reported that approximately two thirds of children would travel to Deanbank by foot, scooter or cycling, however up to 20% intended to drop off by car. There was strong parental support for a shuttle bus between Deanbank and the main school, however the council have said they would not fund this and the school reported that the previous shuttle bus service had created real issues with staffing and used too much school time. Alan will be back in contact with the council about the transport issues between the school sites and will report back to the PC.

f) Playground – no further update available

g) Communication – Olly Headey is slowly updating information on the PC website. He would like some more volunteers next year.

h) Situations Vacant (paper submitted by Craig Hilton) – A list of vacant roles was included in the meeting pack. The Fundraising Group also suggested a dedicated event to help both small businesses and the school. Local businesses will no longer be offered tables at our school fairs. This proposed small business event would need an organiser to take it forward.

7:30 Requested items –

a) Parent Mail - There was a request from Marion Bourbouze to try to limit the number of parentmail messages to one per family for whole school correspondence and keep the focus of parentmail on school issues. This would reduce the number of emails received by parents with more than one child and prevent duplication.

b) Paying People - Eileen Maclean wanted to discuss the concept of paying people to fulfil roles that the PC find hard to fill with volunteers. Mrs Grierson said she was in favour of trying to promote the school community and encourage participation and did not feel this was the right way to go. Marion Bourbouze also felt it would not work for fundraising roles. Craig Hilton will put the situations vacant on the website.

c) St Peter's Road Closure – Craig Hilton has written to the Chair of the St Peter's PC for their views on the road closures. He has not yet had a response. We will keep the dialogue open.

d) Tidying the shed – There was a huge tidy up on Friday 5th June. Many thanks to all those who helped.

8.15 AOB

8.20 Close

The meeting was closed by the Chair.

Date of next meeting – AGM TBC, September 2015

Supporting Papers Supplied in Meeting Pack

- 1) Draft Minutes of the Parent Council meeting held on 11th May 2015 (Susanna Waller)
- 2) Matters Arising/Action Log (Susanna Waller)
- 3) Report: Chair (Craig Hilton)
- 4) Report: Headteacher (Elizabeth Grierson)
- 5) Report: Treasurer (Alison Dalrymple)
- 6) Finance Sub-Group Report and Funding Requests (Miriam Jackson)
- 7) Accommodation Update (Howard Kippax)
- 8) Accommodation Email Correspondence (Craig Hilton)
- 9) Travel Survey Interim Results (Alan Rehfishch)
- 10) Situations Vacant (Craig Hilton)