

Machanhill Parent Council Meeting - Held on Tuesday 14th November 2023

Present

Cheryl Marley, Stephen Shields, Zoe Hughes, Sharon McCallum, Caroline Stevenson, Ricky Hutton, Barry Brownlie, Graeme Clark, Lynn Hunter, Emma Thomson, Tracey McCranor, Mrs. Boyle and Mrs. Tallamy.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Sarah Semple, Vasile Jornea, Charlene Barclay, Dawn Coffey and Emma Mackie.

Welcome

Cheryl opened the Meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Head Teachers Report

Mrs. Boyle advised Members that the cost of 4 iPads for the school is £1127.04 excluding VAT. Payment for this will be made from the PC funds this week.

SLC have announced budget cuts of £20.7 million which affect all areas of the local authority. Education Resources account for £4.625 million of this figure for this year and the next two years also. This will clearly have an impact across all schools within SLC, affecting specialist support teachers, school libraries and school technicians and other roles. Furthermore, the school budget has been reduced by 13% and also faces additional centralised costs being moved and now requiring to come out of the school budget. Full details can be found on SLC website.

Mrs. McDonald has now retired and the recruitment process to fill the vacant role is currently taking place. Applicants have been shortlisted and it is hoped interviews can commence within the next few weeks and the position filled as soon as possible.

Emma the Bernardo's worker is absent due to sickness. As a result Arlene is currently covering some, but not all of the services previously provided.

Further to the last PC Meeting discussing the pupils selling Christmas Crafts at the Fayre, it has been decided that these items will be sold at the Christmas concerts which will be held on the 12th and 13th of December. The pupils Christmas Lunch is on the 14th of December. Unfortunately there will be no pantomime this year due to the high costs involved.

It was advised that tickets to win the Stitch Toy will be sold every Friday until sold out. Tickets are limited to 2 per child.

Other Matters

Cheryl advised that Asda kindly donated 32 selection boxes to the school which have been handed in to the office.

Just over £150 was raised from donations at the Haloween Discos.

Discussion took place around the advantages of the PC becoming a registered charity. In particular it was highlighted about the financial benefit of claiming Gift Aid on donations made to charities and the extra income this could generate. Further investigation with OSCR and other agencies are required which Sharon offered to do.

The Prep Night for the Christmas Fayre is Tuesday 28th November between 6-8pm. All members were reminded to bring a full bottle of alcohol to be used as a tombola or wine stall prize. It was confirmed that the bouncy castle for the fayre has been booked. Donna from the Nursery has kindly agreed to work on the Face Painting stall assisted by her two daughters.

It was agreed that an amount from Santas Grotto would this year be passed on to The Brain Tumour Charity.

In addition to the craft stall that Barry is running, it was agreed that we should try and use up the existing craft materials which was left over from previous years that is currently stored in the cupboard. Sharon advised that she has made up a kids lollipop game to help raise funds at the fayre. Sharon will also look into supplying a kids tombola that can be positioned alongside the pocket money stall.

It was agreed that there will only be one pot of soup this year, due to the costs and the amount of wastage last year. Cheryl encouraged members to ask friends and family for assistance at the fayre, and will put a post on the Mums & Dads Facebook page asking the same. In particular it was highlighted that after last years fayre there was insufficient members helping to clear up.

Graeme advised that he has sourced three fantastic prizes for the raffle which include overnight hotel spa breaks. Barry agreed to create a flyer which will highlight these prizes and others, which can be shared by members and parents from the school. Once created Sharon will organise having the flyer displayed in the community sign in King Street.

It was agreed that a PC Members Whatsapp group chat be created in order that those members who do not use Facebook are included in discussions. It is hoped that this will allow more discussion and interaction that is currently on the Facebook page. Cheryl will create the group and collect the details of members wishing to be added to the chat.

Important Dates

Prep Night for Christmas Fayre is Tuesday 28th November between 6-8pm.

Prep on the day of fayre is from 1.30pm on Friday 1st December.

Christmas Fayre is Friday 1st December between 6-8pm. Members will be advised of what time we can get access prior to the fayre starting.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 6.30pm.

Meeting Closed

Cheryl closed the meeting, and thanked those present for their attendance.