

Minutes of Wallace Hall 2-18 Parent Council Meeting
Monday 27 January 2025
Online meeting

Present: Emily McClennan, Mr Graham, Laura Keenan (Chair), Jillian Maxwell, Alice Stilgoe (Secretary), Mr Mack, Alicia Hood, Sarah McDiarmid, Linda Corrway, Catherine Grosvenor

Item	Details	Action				
1.	<p>Welcome and apologies Apologies: Sammy Austen, Maria Navarro de Sepulveda Calvin Ruysen, Tina Fiske, Jane Valentine, Claire Ingram, Mark Ingram, Kara Millen</p>					
2.	<p>Approval of previous minutes Previous minutes were approved by Laura Keenan and Euan Mack</p>					
3.	<p>Correspondence Email from Vanessa Morris with invitation to take up Connect Membership through DGC, offering webinars on parent council matters.</p>	<p>Laura to investigate</p>				
4.	<p>Projects Update Calvin submitted an email in advance of meeting, along with apologies for his absence, which Laura summarised. Calvin thanked Colin Tennant, Barry and pupils for the video about the project, and stressed importance of communications plan to continue to raise awareness for, and show progress against planned projects.</p> <p>In order to help to move the discussion forward with more pace on the projects and galvanise interest, Calvin proposed a monthly meeting that can be attended in person or on line.</p> <p>Calvin wrote that a number of parents have already expressed some interest in direct funding some projects or investments at the school. Calvin is grateful to Jane for considering how this might be feasible and suggested that we look at platforms and arrangements with the PC, Barry and the school in order to help.</p> <p>Alice reported that Tina Fiske had offered to chat about the options relating to how people can donate and the question of gift aid.</p> <p>Further, Tina recommended, that if you are looking to attract and receive donations (and apply/claim gift aid to those), she would suggest developing several ways that people can easily donate, including ways that people can make straightforward cash donations, donations via card, in person or online etc, and making them visible - on the school website and potentially in the community etc.</p>					
<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="308 1845 874 1879">Project</th> <th data-bbox="890 1845 1439 1879">PC Lead / Decision / Action</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="308 1886 874 1973"> <p>1. Increasing the number of books for the library and securing extra</p> </td> <td data-bbox="890 1886 1439 1973"> <p>C/o Catherine Grosvenor. Catherine to lead for Primary Library and to recruit for help with Academy</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Project	PC Lead / Decision / Action	<p>1. Increasing the number of books for the library and securing extra</p>	<p>C/o Catherine Grosvenor. Catherine to lead for Primary Library and to recruit for help with Academy</p>
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	librarian support to help our children learn	Library. Catherine has been working with Clare Watts since Term 1. Support from Tina Fiske
	2. Getting extra textbooks so that every student who needs one can have one	C/o Alicia Hood Support from Tina Fiske.
	3. Hiring a home link worker to help families that struggle to get their children to school	Laura to raise this issue with the Parent Council Forum. Euan Mack to give supporting evidence and information to Laura.
	4. Re-starting the school newsletter to keep everyone informed of what's going on	Barry – strongly supports strategy for communication and believes regular newsletter best way to achieve this
	5. Replacing the school's old computers and providing every child with a computer or tablet to help them learn	Barry volunteered Calvin to investigate. Barry acknowledged this is a significant project. Unlikely that DGC will be able to fund. Connectivity has improved. Poor devices is the bigger issue. Alice asked if renting was viable option.
	6. Building a path and bridge so that students and local people can make more use of the community orchard	C/o Leah Belford & Laura Keenan
	7. Providing travel costs so that students that might not otherwise be able to afford it can take school trips	Position vacant. Barry explained that there are two school minibuses. One is in good repair and they are awaiting an estimate to bring the second minibus back into good repair.
	8. Building a bike and scooter shed to encourage cycling to school and to keep them secure and dry	C/o Old School Thornhill (OST) OST have a state of the art bike rack and repair station. OST have offered use of their bike rack as currently underused.
	9. Raise funds for annual piano tuning and repairing musical instruments	C/o Emily McClennan Jamie McClennan has already tuned pianos and some money has been donated for this purpose
	10. Creating a space for senior pupils to meet, study and relax	C/o Emily McClennan. Investigate possibilities at OST and cost up an onsite portacabin in the school grounds
	11. Increasing the materials available for art and drama classes so	

	teachers don't have to pay for them out of their salaries	
	12. Hiring a chef to show pupils how to prepare meals, essential for life after school	Put out ask via school newsletter
	13. Building a cosy outdoor cabin so the Early Learning Centre can have a quiet space for children	C/o Calvin Ruysen Calvin meeting Judi Park this week
	14. Building outdoor shades for the Early Learning Centre so that children can be protected from the sun	C/o Calvin Ruysen Calvin meeting Judi Park this week
	15. Introducing indoor plants to enhance the soothing atmosphere in the Early Learning Centre	Communicate via school newsletter
5.	Sub-Committee Reports - Learning and Teaching Mrs Smith gave a summary to Barry Graham which he will share with Laura and bring to the next meeting.	Put on next meeting's agenda
6.	Headteacher's Report ELC Increase in numbers to over 40 pupils. Judi and team are doing a wonderful job in a very busy nursery. ELC had a busy December with lots of Christmas activities and a trip to Old School Thornhill to see Stick Man, an animated adaptation of a Julia Donaldson book. Nursery are exploring Julia Donaldson books as a topic this term. ELC thank parent council for their contribution to Christmas parties and gifts. Primary The term has started well and children settling again into the school routine. P4 class starting swimming this term. The Pupil Rights' Squad have been involved in assemblies and working towards Gold award. Expecting a visitor from the assessors soon. Academy Recent school inspection. Thanks to all members of parent council who contributed to the inspection. Upcoming ski trip for S4. This is an especially exciting school trip as this year group particularly missed out on such opportunities due to Covid19. Recent achievement awards assembly where many awards for given, including for reading.	Barry to discuss alignment of secondary school timetables at next meeting
7.	Treasurer's Report - via email	

	<p>Primary - £394.76 of which £116.89 is ring fenced for “sponsored read” books leaving a balance of £277.87. We are also expecting a payment of approx. £200 from the Christmas card fundraising activity to be paid this month.</p> <p>Academy – Balance of £660.78</p>	
8.	<p>AOB</p> <p>S3 Parents evening Thu 30 January. Call for Parent Helpers to attend. Jane, Laura and Alicia volunteered.</p>	
9.	<p>DONM Monday 10 March, 7pm Wallace Hall Academy</p>	