

08/06/21

MINUTES

Towerbank Parent Group

Thursday 3rd June 2021

In attendance

Joanne Macaulay (Chair), Polly Clement (vice Chair) Lucy Anderson (Secretary), Alasdair Friend (Head Teacher),

Polly, can you copy and paste the attendees, thanks.

Welcome and Chairs report

Joanne thanked everyone for coming and thanks to Towerbank staff for everything during strange time, it has been an odd year as we couldn't do fundraising but hope we can go back it come August.

Have come up with a couple of COVID friendly ideas. Polly organised virtual balloon race – lots of nice prizes, quite straightforward. Bit of fun. Also hope to do a virtual treasure hunt. Only one person came forward, please come forward.

Polly Lucy and I stepping down from September. Please come forward.

One funding request for P7 leavers hoodies, in the past they have not had them until quite late – trying to make sure everyone has a P7 leavers hoodie. The school have asked if we will help fund school hoodies. It would be about £750.

Put to the vote – majority voted YES

Head teacher update

There have been significant problems in other primary schools. There are currently no cases in Portobello or Joppa at the moment. Big thanks to staff and all of you at home as parents and carers and children.

Our plan is that we are going to put out class lists on Friday 18th.

In last week we can't get children together with new teachers but teachers will record virtual messages.

School reports – had bit of feedback. Will get further feedback after phone conversation.

Update – tomorrow we have contractors down to secure ground anchors into playground so tepee can become more permanent.

Active Schools update

Paddy Dearlove and Jude Salmon have come along

Active Schools have reviewed our priorities to make sure we help pupils who need more support to be physically active. We are aiming to narrow the gap between those pupils who can and cannot access physical activity. See attached pp



Jude Salmons said that Active Schools is not going anywhere but we can't look back or compare and Sport Scotland have been asking us for years not to ask for payment for activity sessions.

Questions (couldn't capture them all but here are selection)

There were lots of questions around what this actually means:

1. Aren't opportunities for sport going to close if there is no payment from those who can afford? Reply from Jude Salmon (JS) It can be a shock and there are barriers but Active Schools is a platform to intro sport to school not to be an actual programme
2. What clubs are we losing? Reply from JS we are not losing but starting again
3. I have 2 kids trying out stuff. Fencing and cricket - not competitive level but gain skills. If you don't have the coaches where are the clubs? (JS mentioned clubs would come into school to help out)
4. Has your funding changed? Reply from JS only money we have is the resource of AS co-ordinators
5. Clubs can be terrifying for kids, surely fun sport should be the focus
6. Where will the money come from to fund the activities? JS The active school co-ordinators will approach PTA, funding groups, nothing to stop schools asking parents
7. Could you please clarify the role of active schools now? JS Our role and vision for the year is to contribute to the health of kids in school. If children are interested in a particular sport we could bring it into school. (There was then some dialogue around how children will know what they want to try?)
8. Will Active schools come to us with a list of activities?

Paddy then said they will try and tap into what is on our doorstep – beach volleyball etc...

AF explained there are lots of clubs school is running separate from Active Schools – eg ski-ing and there is a tier system for payment. He is in discussion with kayaking/sailing club. The concern he has is the capacity issue for school. A year ago there were 11 clubs. Not sure any can continue.

9. One person raised the issue being limited to the kids that are physically able – how will this change benefit those who are not? JS said they would be seeking out children like that

Paddy – part of my role is to work with the school

Both gave emails to contact directly if anyone would like:

Jude.Salmon@ea.edin.sch.uk

Paddy.dearlove@ea.edin.sch.uk

Towerbank After School Club

TASC appointed a new lead – Becky Wills. Just to say hello. We are grateful to the school for allowing us to use the building. I hope I am approachable, I am in most afternoons.

AGM September – last one for Polly and me