

29.10.25

IN ATTENDANCE -

Ann O'Hagan (AOH) – Head Teacher

Catriona Ferguson (CF) – Principal Teacher

Hugh Mooney (HM) - Parent

Craig McInnes (CM) - Parent

Aicha Reid (AR) - Parent

APOLOGIES -

Clare Armstrong (CA) - Parent

INTRODUCTION

AOH opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, and in particular AR, who was a new member to the group. AR took the opportunity to introduce herself, informing the group that her daughter had recently joined the school as first year pupil. For the benefit of AR, AOH gave a brief history of the Pilrig Park School Parent Council. She explained that the previous incarnation had folded due to the parents involved no longer having any attachment to the school. As the children grew older and left the school, so did the parents. This led to the school having no Parent Council at all, until around eighteen months ago when the present Parent Council was formed. The group heard how a couple of issues had led to a delay in properly getting the Parent Council up and running, although it was great to note that we were finally moving on with things. AOH pointed out to AR that the Parent Council was a very relaxed and informal set up, where everyone in attendance was welcome to join in the discussions as and when they wanted to. AR told us that the opportunity to connect with parents and the opportunity to help the school were two factors which appealed to her when thinking about getting involved with the Parent Council.

HMIe INSPECTION

AOH told how the school had recently been inspected, on two different matters, namely “Learning, teaching and assessment” and “Raising attainment and achievement”. The group learnt that HMIe had invited the school to give themselves a rating on each issue. The ratings were to be one of the following -

Unsatisfactory

Weak

Satisfactory

Good

Very Good

Excellent

The school had given themselves a “Very Good” for each category. HMIE agreed with the school that for “Raising attainment and achievement” an award of Very Good was correct but decided that the school merited a Good for the “Learning, teaching and assessment” category. AOH informed the Parent Council that the staff were disappointed with the grading for LTA. The staff felt that an inspection on the second last week of the school year when sixteen P7 pupils were also in the building on their three-day transition visits, was an unfair time to inspect a school, and allow all the great work that happens here at Pilrig to be showcased. AOH pointed out that since that inspection had taken place, Pilrig had received the Digital School Award, the only special needs school in Edinburgh to do so!

HM, in his position as Parent Council Chair, was invited to view the HMIE report before it was released to the public. His views on its findings were welcomed by HMIE. Although HM agreed with most of the report, he disagreed with its view that the school did not set “challenging” work. HM argued that his son had progressed precisely because the work set for him had been challenging. It was a small point, but one that HM quite rightly felt worth mentioning to HMIE.

PARENT COUNCIL EMAIL

CM mentioned that he had not had access to the Parent Council email and felt this should be rectified if he were to continue in his role as secretary. HM mentioned that both the email address, and its password, were in the Parents Council WhatsApp group. CM said he'd check the group once the meeting was over. AOH suggested that going forward as a standing item, we should be asking if anything has come in from the email address. CM noted this and ensured it would be on the agenda going forward.

OFFICE BEARERS

AOH said we would have to ensure that the roles of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer were confirmed and ratified before we could move on. Given that the roles of Chair and Secretary had been assigned to HM and CM previously, both agreed to carry on the roles, and this was seconded. This left only the role of Treasurer, which had been held by CA. As CA was not in attendance, AOH asked that we assign the role of Treasurer among ourselves on the Council WhatsApp group, and then arrange for a further TEAMS meeting between the Parent Council and the school to ratify the positions. During this part of the meeting AR indicated that she would be happy to take on the role of Treasurer should CA no longer wish to have the role.

We agreed we would convene a TEAMS meeting to confirm the Office Bearers within the next ten days or so. This was to ensure all was in place before the schools Parental Engagement event on November 19th. At this point AOH asked if anyone in the group would like to come along to the Parents Engagement event and represent the Parent Council. AR indicated she would be happy to do this.

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

As stated above, our next meeting will only be a very quick TEAMS meeting to confirm and rectify the office bearers. There are however three other points that will be discussed -

- 1 - Quickly run over the minutes of the 29/10/25 meeting
- 2 - Agree what AR plans to say at the Parental Engagement Night
- 3 - AOB

AGENDA FOR NEXT FULL MEETING

- 1 - Anything come in through the Parent Council email?
- 2 - How best do we use the Parent Council voice? Can we use it to promote the voice of special needs kids in wider society? (proposed by AR).
- 3 - Treasurer report. How much is in our account? Have we been receiving funds from CEC? How could these funds be spent?
- 4 - AOH to talk about plans for year ahead.

With that, the meeting was closed.

03.11.25

ATTENDEES -

Ann O'Hagan – Head Teacher

Catriona Ferguson – Principal Teacher

Craig McInnes - Secretary PPPC

Hugh Mooney - Chair PPPC

Aicha Reid - (new) Treasurer PPPC

We held a subsequent TEAMS meeting on 03.11.25 to fully ratify the office bearer positions. At this meeting, Aicha put herself forward to become Treasurer, and this was seconded by Hugh. The motion passed and this means that Aicha is now officially our new Treasurer. Ann asked that it be noted that she would like to thank Clare Armstrong for her work as the previous Treasurer.

Ann then took the chance to discuss how the PPPC communicate. Ann made us aware that the existing PPPC WhatsApp group contained parents who no longer had kids at the school, or who no longer held office bearer positions. It was suggested that this WhatsApp group be deleted, and a new one created which only included the office bearers (Craig, Hugh and Aicha). Craig to action this. The group discussed how potentially interested parents could discuss issues together, and it was suggested that a wider WhatsApp group may be set up for anyone who wishes to be involved. This will be discussed at the next full PPPC meeting.

In the same vein it was felt a new email address should be set up, to ensure only the office bearers had access to the password (the current email address was set up by a parent no longer involved with the PPPC). Again, Craig to action this. Craig suggested that he keeps a hold of the password for the email, and he will pass this onto the new Secretary when Craig moves on. This will ensure that PPPC have the same email for years to come.

Ann made us aware that the City of Edinburgh Council now know that Hugh is Chair of the PPPC, and he may receive emails to his personal email address from them off the back of this.

Catriona pointed out that the current PPPC Constitution was on the school website, although it hadn't been updated since 2021. Any updates/changes to the constitution to be discussed at the next full PPPC meeting.

Ann asked that the PPPC get back to her with a date for the next full meeting, and all attendees agreed that this should take place before the Christmas break.

No other business.

The meeting was closed.

Craig McInnes

PPPC Secretary