RSV Thursday 2nd March 2023, Teams, 7.30pm
Minutes

Present: Emily McMorris, co-chair; Leanne Chalmers, co-chair; Charlie Roy, Secretary; Peter Gibb, Headmaster; parents

1. **Welcome from the chair, good to see so many joining.**

2. **Head Teacher Update –**
   a. December: very positive month. Christmas fair well attended, with thanks to RSV & good for pupil morale, whole school trip to A Christmas Carol at Lyceum enjoyed with thanks to RSV, Nativities, Christmas parties, Church service were all appreciated by the pupils.
   b. January: Scots themed activities a great success, culminating in Scots Assemblies. 83 x P5 + P6 children visited New Lanark. P1 + P2 have been enjoying Community walks with buddies and parents, as well as Stay & Play sessions that have been well attended by parents. Generation Science workshops have proved popular. P7 have been taking part in Art of Listening Workshops. The netball team has been to watch netball at Meadowbank. RPS had great success as the ESPA Cross Country event, with outstanding results. P3 & P4 have welcome NICOS. The Glee Club continues to meet. There has been a P3 assembly and a Knights Rights Assembly. The school competeted well in the Edinburgh Council Sumdog challenge with P6 placing particularly high. There have been Lacrosse sessions and challenges.
   c. March: World Book Day saw and assembly, activities and a Book Swap take place.
   d. CURRENT INITIATIVES: Walk to School, Eat them to Defeat Them – to encourage eating vegetables, Water not Juice, Wrapper free Thursdays, Partnership with Cyrenians as a veg box distribution point, Correct Uniform, School Nurse availability being promoted, safe parking, park and stride, School attendance.
   e. FORTHCOMING: 8 March is 40 Year anniversary of the school - a showcase is planned on Weds 8, Charity Football Match on Fri 10, design of the new mural is underway, time capsule. Tennis for pupils. Scottish Rugby week will see a visit from Currie Chieftains. Assessment Week will take place before the end of the month. P4 Assembly might clash with the next teacher strikes. (*Strikes since cancelled)* 22/23 March Parent Teacher Consultations to take place. Week before Easter: Spring Show P5 / P6. Empowered Learning roll out in progress, with 1:1 iPads for all P6 + P7. RPS has also provided iPads for all P5s on a different system. P1-P4, 1:4 ratio of iPads. Agreements for home use of iPads have been sent to all parents.
   f. POLICY REVIEWS: Attendance Policy. SFL Policy: good progress made in the past 8 months, processes & systems are up to speed – with thanks to Lynne Smith – and now ready to ask for parent input. PG to reach out to ASN parent council. Parents interested in getting involved are invited to come forwards.
   g. NEW BUILDINGS: PG has met with the developer & to meet monthly. Good progress being made. PG requested, at behest of a parent, for a defibrillator to be sponsored by Clark Construction – this would appear to be approved. CR suggests providing a level of awareness for pupils. In addition, Clark

Construction to join an assembly to discuss the plans for the new building and site safety. Edinburgh City Council Early Years team will meet PG fortnightly to discuss set up of new nursery.

h. 11 Classes have been agreed for next year, structure to stay as this year, PG pleased not going to cut down to 10.
i. SCHOOL LIBRARY: Looking for a parent to work with developing the library in the erstwhile STEM hub. Eventually will be looking for furniture, to make the library more welcoming.

3. Parent/Carer Questions:

a) School Nursery Update / After School Care for Nursery Children

- Building Completion scheduled for December 2023. Thereafter, once the Care Inspectorate approves the facility, the existing cohort will visit the building before transitioning to the new premises. Capacity is currently 32 and will double to 64 in the new building, but not until the existing pupils have settled. At present, age 3+ care is envisaged. PG will continue to update.
- Ratho provides two models of childcare: longer hours over 4 days / 4 days 8:30-3:30 + Fri morning. ECC had indicated preference for the second model. It is possible year round provision will be put in place for 32 places, likely to be split 16 am / 16 pm or 2 days / 2 days. PG to enquire if parents will be invited to input. Hopes to run concurrent models. ECC yet to confirm projection for roll numbers, however can confirm that nursery full and waiting list now in place for next session.
- Q: concern that no response to deferral requests has been made. Request window closed on 28/02/23 and responses are scheduled to be sent out in March. A priority system is in place. Should parents have specific concerns, they are invited to make contact with PG.(*Deferrals are all now confirmed)*
- Future use of current nursery building has yet to be clarified. PG hoping the school will keep the facility for use by the school and for public bookings.

b) Attendance Letters

- If children are unwell, the advice remains to keep children off school. This relates to unexplained low attendance.
- Going forward, PG will send letters home by post on a termly basis – though these were sealed, some children may have felt singled out.
- Letters are sent to pupils with attendance under 90%. This is in line with Edinburgh Council guidance and initiative to improve attendance, and within the Education Act 2014 to promote attendance as data shows this can affect achievement. 5% of the cohort attend less than 85% of school days. The policy has been developed within the Balerno High Cluster and is rolled out jointly. This policy has been highlighted in the school newsletter.
- If parents believe an absence has not been correctly recorded, RPS is happy to rectify.

c) School Roll Increase Impact on After School Care

Edinburgh Council has not advised of projected school roll sizes. Class sizes are anticipated to remain steady for the next few sessions. Nursery session 23-24 will be full and a waiting list is already in place. A new manager is in post at Little Flyers, where the provision is for P1-P7. Capacity is 30, and spaces are available on Mondays and Fridays.

d) Pavement Closure at New Nursery Building

A new site manager is in post, and PG has met with them.

PG has requested builders do not use School Wynd or the garages to park at drop off / pick up. The same request is made to parents. PG has requested the council trim the hedge on the pavement opposite the building site to allow pavement to be wider. Furthermore, PG has requested that no heavy machinery be in operation at drop off / pick up times.

e) Stage for Class Assemblies and Shows

Oliver! – the P5/P6 Spring show, will take place in the Church Hall, meaning the performance will be visible to all.

There is a "flat pack" stage & chairs in storage, and the school can change the layouts in the hall. RSV offered to support the purchase of a better stage / PA system, with PA as priority. School are investigating and will advise.

Nativities moved to being Nursery + P1 + P2 due to having a composite P1/P2 class and allowing children who had missed the experience during Covid to catch up on the experience. However, this may not be workable in the long term, and with named roles going to nursery children, P1 children coming from private nurseries may miss out on the opportunity to participate in a speaking role. Early Years to look in to this.

4. Parent Pay Issues

Parents are frustrated with children's school lunch orders being suddenly deleted by the parent pay system.
School has approached the council. It was concluded that the theme days were causing issues. While some progress seemed to have been made in January, the problem re-occurred recently. The Council will now schedule theme days before opening the booking option so that the menus go live simultaneously to ensure the problem does not occur.
RPS would like to reassure the parents that the office and the canteen work to ensure no child ever goes without lunch.
RSV thanks the staff for their care in this matter and would like to especially thank Mrs Ellaway for thorough and daily checking of the parentpay system to ensure that all children have lunch.

5. Christmas Card Refund Update

It has come to light that while it is the same printing company that has been used for years, they have been under new management. A full refund will be sent by the company to RSV, and parents will be invited to claim back their costs once the RSV has received the money. The RSV noted that sadly the original drawings won't come back. The RSV is looking into another company for next year.
It was suggested that parents may wish to waive the refund and donate the money to the RSV nonetheless. Leanne Chalmers & Debby Smith to coordinate.

6. Easter Fundraising

Following the success of Easter 2022' decorate a plate fundraiser, the RSV will use a similar model to run a STEM themed competition. There will be different age categories with pupils being asked to design an Easter Egg delivery system for the Easter Bunny. Entry will be £1 and the prize will be an Easter Egg. Emily McMorris to coordinate.

7. RSV 2023-2024

Leanne Chalmers will step down as Co-Chair

Debby Smith will step down as Treasurer
Charlie Roy will step down as Secretary
Parents are invited to volunteer for these roles, and all three role holders are happy to support any handovers as needed.
The RSV would like to thank all three for their time and work.
PG, on behalf of the entire school community, thanked the three role holders and highlighted how important the RSV is to the school and the community. RPS is proud of the RSV and its ongoing work. PG is also happy to support any incoming volunteers.

8. AOB

- **Kids Love Clothes**: RPS is happy to support a donation box as proposed by Dominique Sinclair, however this may be more suited to the Community Centre. DS to investigate.
- **JAAQ** Dominique Sinclair highlighted the mental health website JAAQ. Further to discussion it was concluded that while this may not be suitable for primary age pupils, and furthermore there are resources already in use in the curriculum, this may be a useful resource for teachers.
- **Oliver!** It is likely that there will be two shows for Oliver!, one before and one after lunch. Exact timings will be confirmed ASAP in conjunction with the Church Hall booking. RPS can film the show on an iPad for parents who cannot attend. LiveStreaming will not be possible as there is no wifi in the church hall.
- **Lagganlea Coach** – RPS has been quoted £1600, RSV to support.