

Parent Council Meeting Minutes – Tuesday 15th June 2021 Meeting via Microsoft TEAMS

Attendees:

Lee Picken (Chair), Dee McIntosh (Secretary), Naomi Barton, Serena Broadway, Leanne Gordon, Alexa Pope (Head Teacher), Ingrid Donaldson, Neil Rudram (Treasurer), Poilin Glacken, Catherine Salmond, Gillian Smith, Mhari Hargreaves and 3 guest parents.

Apologies:

Sonia Rutherford, Ruth Gaffney, Kirsty Cummings, Sara Pellegrini,

TOPIC	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS	ACTIONS
Head Teachers Report	1. Staff absences this term have been very difficult to manage. The management team are trying to keep parents updated as much as they can. 2. There have been a number of classes isolating this term but the management team have been really pleased to see how quickly and smoothly the transition from class to online learning has been. 3. The end of term reports will be issued to children around the 18th June. 4. Feedback on the online parent nights held last month / earlier this month has been very positive. Unfortunately no parent night could be held for classes P1B and P7B due to longer term staff absences. 5. Next year the school will be moving away from class names “A” and “B” and instead the initial of the class teacher’s surname will be used. For example, Miss Harper’s class this year was P3A but next year it would be P3H. The reason behind this is to remove any stigma associated with always being in the “A” or “B” class. This practice has been used in primary schools in Fife for some time now. 6. The incoming P1 classes have been told their teacher’s – Miss Lyell and Miss Rankin. 7. Each new class will have a 20 minute welcome meeting with their new teacher on Monday. 8. Enhanced transitions are being carried out for all children this year. 9. P7s have been having virtual transitions to secondary school. This has been difficult to schedule as there are different schools involved, offering different time slots but they feel this has been significantly better than the transition last year. An enhanced transition has been carried out for a small number of P7s. 10. The end of year celebrations will happen on Friday. It will be different to previous years as it will all need to be outdoors. 11. Nursery have held their sports day and have had their graduation ceremony where they skip through the willow. As parents are not allowed to attend the children were filmed receiving their certificates.	

	12. Mrs Pope commented on how well the race for life had gone as part of sports week had gone and how proud she was to see how engaged in this activity and how proud they were to receive their medals. 13. Potted sports part of sports week has had to be postponed due to staff shortages. This will be held before the end of term though. Nursery Update 1. No real staffing changes 2. Noticeboard at the nursery entrance is now being used again to notify parents of important events at the nursery. 3. Going back to using online journals rather than full paper journals. The staff will still keep a paper trail for each child but to inform parents observations will be put online. 1. A lot of controversial feedback has been received in relation to the nursery lunches. Nursery staff are on it and are providing direct feedback to Chartwell on this. SC asked whether a sandwich option could be introduced in the nursery. Ingrid said the staff were pushing for this too. 4. As there will be 64 children at drop off and pick up time, someone from Early Years provision is coming to assess the nursery and advise on how they can make changes to improve safety and keep bubbles in place. 5. Ingrid is expecting Nether Currie nursery to open in January. 6. It is expected that bubbles will still be in place in the nursery next term. Friendships will be taken into account when forming these bubbles. 2. Ingrid stated that parents do not have to use their full allocation of the 1140 hours. There will, however, be no shared spaces between children allowing e.g. 2 children to share the full 1140 hours across the year.	
Active Schools	• Lee highlighted that there has been a lot of discussion on the parent council chair forum on this subject • Lee and Mrs Pope informed us that there are plans in place to make active school clubs free across Scotland for every child. At the moment some parents pay for this and others can receive subsidised / free places depending on circumstances. • However as this means there is no money now to pay for the staff that run these clubs, volunteers will be needed (parents or staff) or third party private providers will need to be brought in and paid for out of parent council funds (or school budget??). • There was a lot of questions on this topic and issues raised such as “how do we ensure people actually use their free spaces”, “how do we ensure we get decent quality teaching”, “how can we ask our teachers to take this on”, “what about schools that have no parent council or any fund raising funds to pay for this”, “what was wrong with the old system”	• LP to invite Lisa to the next PC meeting to discuss Active Schools provision and answer questions on this.

	• Mrs Pope suggested it would be a good idea to invite Lisa (our Active Schools coordinator) to the next meeting.	
Health & Safety	• PG wanted to request that this be added as a standard item for our PC meetings. The PC members agreed this was something we should be interested in. • LP informed that she has a very detailed monthly meeting on this covering lots of H&S aspects across the school from the building to procedures and could provide a summary of this to us. • MH suggested that we should leave it to LP to inform us of, ONLY, things that are relevant to the parent body to avoid too much duplication of effort here.	• LP to provide regular update on any H&S issues the parent body may be interested in.
Uniforms	• PG asked whether the school had a vision for the uniform as some parents had noted that the choice of branded uniform online (on schoolwearmadeeasy) had been changed. • LP informed that she felt there was too much choice on the website and felt that things like a PE kit could be purchased for much cheaper. This aligns with poverty proofing and reducing the cost of the school day. • LP informed that it is likely the current position on wearing full PE kit for the full day when children have PE is likely to stay for now. Again this is in line with poverty proofing the school day. • LP clarified that the school receives no money from online branded uniform purchases. The PC felt that parents should probably be informed about this as they come into the school. ID said this could be put on the welcome pack to new parents. • LP informed that the P6s will now be given a range of colours to choose from for their P7 leavers hoody. This year the P6s have chosen navy blue. Every year this will change.	• ID to add a note to the welcome pack for new parents stating that the school make no money from online branded uniform purchases.
AOB	• TF informed the group that our MSP Neil Gardener was taken aback to hear that the school staff were having to police the gates to stop parents driving up Baberton Mains Wynd and into the car park. • TF has requested that all yellow lines be removed from Baberton Mains Wynd as nothing the Council have put in place seems to be working and parents still drive up and park on these lines without consequence. It will likely take a few years for these to be removed. • TF is happy to keep the PC informed of progress. • MH wanted to say a big thank you to the management team for all of their effort and hard work this year. This was echoed around the committee. • The AGM will be held in September. It looks like Tuesday 7th September is the best date for this.	

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday 7th September (AGM)