



3rd February 2022

PC Meeting

MINUTES

Members Present: David Bhella, Joanne Simpson, Emma McIntyre, Ashley Miles, Gayle McMillan, Councillor Margaret Cowie, Susanne Donachie, Kelly Anderson, Monica Paul-Sharma, Chris McVey, Gail Wilson, Pamela Armstrong, Jayne Swanson, Lisa Kelly, Laura Connor, Councillor Robert Brown, Aishah Ali, Catrina Miller

Staff: Jen Innes, Jill Ring, Julie Kirkland, Ashley Combe, Nicola Allison, Gary Mowat, Vari Cairns, Sinead Scambler, Maureen Waddell.

Apologies: Karen Douglas, Louise Bradshaw, Suzanne Morris,

▪ Welcome

David welcomed everyone to the parent council meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

▪ Minutes from last meeting: accepted and agreed by PC members, with the following action points still outstanding:

- **Jayne Swanson**- Processes document to be produced covering all PC procedures – **on-going**
- **Joanne Simpson** - Compile a list of all PC members who are also PVG members – **on-going**
- **David Bhella** – School travel plan to be collated - **on-going**

▪ Correspondence

David advised that there was no correspondence received apart from information regarding the School Travel Plan which will be discussed later on the agenda.

▪ Head Teacher Report – Jen Innes

Thank You

· Thank you very much for funding our party treats at the end of last term and for providing ice cream for pupils to have whilst watching the pantomime (thank you also for funding the pantomime). These treats gave pupils a great end to the term in the run up to Christmas.

- Thank you for your support at the outdoor Christmas concerts, and for running the raffles. This will have generated much needed funds for the Parents Council, and thanks again to Elaine for managing to secure the matched funding – what an amazing difference that has made!

- Thank you very much for supporting our virtual Burns Suppers, organised by our Primary 6 classes and facilitated through your Zoom account. These events were a great success.

Covid-19 and Restrictions for Educational Settings

- We still seeing a steady stream of cases in school, and we continue to record and monitor case numbers, and send letters out to alert parents and carers when there is a case in a class.

- This week the Scottish Government issued updated guidance for schools. South Lanarkshire Council will use this to update their own guidance, and we will wait to see if any action points arise, however, I am not anticipating any significant changes at this time.

Staffing Update

- Covid continues to have an impact on staffing. As you know, we endeavour to try to ensure continuity for pupils when there is an absence and our priority is continuity of learning and teaching.

- We have a permanent class teacher vacancy at Calderwood, which has arisen due to changes in working hours. The post has been advertised and we received a high number of applications. We are interviewing a shortlist of 13 applicants next Thursday, including some internal candidates, and we wish everyone taking part in the interviews the best of luck.

- We were delighted to welcome back Mrs Samson last week, who is currently working alongside Mr Preiss in Room 8.

- Congratulations to Mrs Henderson who was married over the Christmas holidays – it looked like a beautiful celebration and we are glad everything went smoothly.

- We are also delighted to let you know that our Calderwood family is growing by one more – Mrs Combe is expecting baby number 2! Huge congratulations!

School Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality Report

- 116 children are working with our Equity teachers, funded through PEF, to support aspects of their learning in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. We constantly review these interventions and the children who would benefit most from them.

The School Year/School Events

- Our Burns Suppers, organised by Primary 6, were a huge success, and I hope any attendees would agree that the format worked well on a digital platform (with the exception of not getting to share the haggis with guests!). We ran the events over three afternoons for each class, and they were all very well attended. In addition to parents, carers, grandparents and other family members, we were also joined by all our local councillors, Robert Brown, Margaret Cowie and Carol Nugent, our Executive Director of Education Tony McDaid, Head of Education Anne Donaldson, Quality Link Officer Garry Maguire and MSP Clare Haughey. The Primary 6s excelled and thoroughly enjoyed the experience – special thanks to all the staff involved for all their hard work.

- Our Primary 6 classes have also started a block of swimming lessons from now until Spring Break. We felt it was important to provide this opportunity given that many pupils have not been swimming over the course of the pandemic. We will be funding this through monies provided by South Lanarkshire Council to provide free access to all pupils for school activities.

- Clubs will begin again after the February weekend. We have a large number of clubs that will hopefully offer a wide spread of activities across the stages. We will also be attending some LA competitions, starting with netball next week.
- Next week we will celebrate Children's Mental Health Week, led by Primary 7 Room 15 and Mrs Henderson.
- We had our first Pupil Council meeting this morning for our first group. We are prioritising the playground, including games and resources and litter.

School Business

- Primary 4s are currently undertaking Scottish National Standardised Assessments – data will be used to inform future planning both for individual and groups of children.
- Our next Parents' Evenings are scheduled for March and we have decided to use the online platform School Cloud. This has been funded by SLC for all schools, and many of you with older children will have already used it with their high school. It is a very user-friendly platform, but relies on contact information being up-to-date so that we can email joining instructions. More information will be sent out next week.
- We have had to replace a number of classroom projectors recently. Two have already been installed, with another six on order. This has come at a significant cost to the school, but we have so far managed to fund this through our budget.

Requests for Help

- We are looking to make a decision regarding class trips this session as if classes are venturing on trips we will need to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity. Our biggest concern is the funding, as this will come at a price and buses have always been funded by the Parent Council, so I would like to know what you think?
- Our Sumdog subscription is up for renewal again – this is well-used and we were wondering if you would be happy to fund it again?

Sumdog Maths with Spelling & Grammar: £2,080 plus VAT (438 pupils)

- Sumdog Maths up to Third Level
- Sumdog Spelling
- Sumdog Grammar
- FREE Spelling and Grammar for the remainder of your current subscription
- 30% price break discount + 5% upgrade discount

Sumdog Maths: £1,408 plus VAT (438 pupils)

- Sumdog Maths up to Third Level
- 15% loyalty discount
- We have also been contacted about booking a real-life pantomime in the school for December – would you be happy for us to book this? We have been quoted £799.

▪ **School Travel Plan**

David advised that he had sent the travel plan out to all PC members and asked if everyone can take the time to read through it and if you have any suggested changes to the report than can you please e-mail him the details. The aim is to get the report signed off and then we get a certificate to say the school has completed this and we get various literature provided for the school to hand out. We can then work with South Lanarkshire Council on engineering solutions that can be put in place i.e. road markings/crossings etc. Jill advised that Primary 6, Room 13 have written to South Lanarkshire Council to request that the lines and keep clear signs are re-painted round the school as they are the Road Safety leadership class. Laura advised that she would be happy to take new photos of the lines to show how much they have degraded and also the poor pavement parking. Laura also offered to proof read the report and get back to David.

▪ **Air Purifiers**

A general discussion took place regarding the possibility/benefit of having air purifiers in each classroom. Jen advised that the situation at the moment is that around October the school were provided with CO2 monitors for classrooms and the school had to take regular readings and feed this information back to South Lanarkshire Council. There are also recommendations to staff to have doors and windows open as often as possible to help the situation. David advised that Karen had asked for this to be raised and whether the P.C could fund this. A further discussion took place regarding this. It was discussed that new schools actually have built in natural ventilation which are vents in the classroom which are open permanently just now so the design of this should help. Vari Cairns advised that when her classroom used the CO2 monitors it was green all day so it never raised any issues with ventilation. Gary Mowat advised that his classroom was the same. Emma had a quick look online while the meeting was taking place and for the OC to fund air purifiers it would be estimated to cost around £4500. Karen had also check this and had found air purifiers at £450 each so it was agreed that this is very expensive for the whole school. Chris raised that the OC funding this could potentially cause more problems as who would maintain the units so it would actually raise even more questions. Jill also brought up that we would also have to take into running costs for the units too. After the discussion it was agreed that we would not pursue funding this at present.

▪ **Subgroups**

Reading Subgroup – The first reading subgroup meeting took place on 27th January. At the meeting we discussed the Reading School Action Plan that was shared with members of the group after the meeting. The main aims are to build on the existing reading culture within Calderwood and expand our love of reading to the wider community. We also discussed...

- World Book Day - preparations are underway and are being planned by our Room 7 children as part of their leadership group, Reading Champions
- Contact has been made with Rutherglen library to make links and set up class visits
- Learner survey results were shared with some very positive results about our children's reading attitudes
- Reading School newsletter was issued with hints and tips for encouraging reading for pleasure at home as well as book recommendations and learner survey results
- Parent/carer survey launched to assess reading attitudes
- School Eco Library - Room 7 are looking for book donations to set up an eco-library to give the whole school access to books anytime at the front of the school (coming soon)
- Community links - we discussed ways in which we could involve the wider community including links with Grow 73, Camglen radio and local care homes.

Garden subgroup – Julie confirmed that we are just waiting on a delivery date for the outdoor classroom and then works will be started as soon as possible after that.

Sustainability subgroup – No new update to give as meeting still to take place.

Community Engagement subgroup – No new update to give as meeting still to take place. E-mail to be sent to members to arrange meeting and nominate a lead person.

Events subgroup – The group have not met again but will meet soon as restrictions are now lifting. Will look at getting a quiz night and other ideas going forward to get events moving again. The events at Christmas were a great success so thanks to everyone involved. Jen advised that there is new guidance on restrictions which she will forward on for information. With regards to the events for P7 it was agreed that we should speak to the current P7s to see if they want to go back to a leavers dance or go with the week of fun like last year. Pamela asked about the P7 hoodies and whether it would be funded again this year and it was noted that we did not do this before and only did last year due to the Covid-19 restriction not allowing the P7s to do any of their other activities. Concerns was raised that if we did it again this year we would be worried about setting a precedent for every year from now on asking for them so this will need to be discussed further. His will all be discussed with the P7s to see what they want. Events group will get dates in the diary and liaise with the school for this and Jill Ring advised she would be happy to come along to any future meeting.

▪ **Lockerbie Manor**

Jill advised that she has lettered P7 parents regarding this and a meeting was held at South Lanarkshire Council headquarters today regarding the guidance for the trips so Jill is waiting on this before starting to collect any deposits.

▪ **Induction Update**

The school have been enrolling the new P1s for August over the last couple of weeks so Jill advised that she will be in touch with the induction group to arrange all the details going forward.

▪ **Treasurers Report**

Gail advised that she would be passing a cheque on to the school for the reimbursement of the sweet treats and the cheque for the Children's Mental Health Week production has been sent away. All money that was raised from the Santa Dash etc. has now been banked and we are just about there with the accounts so Gail will message James Donachie next week to have a look over them. Gail advised if there were any questions regarding PC funds then you can contact her directly.

▪ **Any other business**

Joanne advised that she would send out an email to the entire parent council to see if there were any objections to the PC funding the requests from the school for the Sumdog renewal and also the cost of the buses for each class to have a trip before the end of the school year. All members present at tonight's meeting approved the funding request but as this is such a large amount of money it would need to be put out for everyone to vote. Joanne will update the school with the outcome.

▪ **Next meeting Thursday 3rd March 2022**

Meeting closed.