



## 5th May 2022

### PC Meeting

### MINUTES

**Members Present:** David Bhella, Karen Douglas, Chris McVey, Gail Wilson, Kelly Anderson, Emma McIntyre, Pamela Armstrong, Jayne Swanson, Elaine Miller,

**Staff:** Jen Innes, Jill Ring, Julie Kirkland,

**Apologies:** Joanne Simpson, Monica Paul-Sharma,

#### ▪ **Welcome**

David welcomed everyone to the parent council meeting.

- **Minutes from last meeting:** due to technical issues there were no previous minutes available for approval. 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 – **completed.**

#### ▪ **Correspondence**

David advised that there was no correspondence received apart from the Parent Council meeting with South Lanarkshire Council that he was due to attend today has been postponed.

#### ▪ **Head Teacher Report – Jen Innes**

#### **Thank You**

Thank you very much for organising the Easter/Spring Fun Day for pupils on the last day of term. A huge thank you to both Joanne and Louise for their ideas, resources and help setting up on the day. The outdoor disco was a super idea, and everyone really enjoyed taking part. The Easter bonnet was also a great idea, with Miss Henderson's class winning the prize for best design. The hats then travelled to lots of far-flung

locations over the holidays with staff taking photographs of themselves wearing the hats in weird and wonderful places.

### **Staffing Update**

Mrs Combe started her maternity leave yesterday. In her absence, we are delighted to let you know that Mrs Waddell will be stepping up as Acting Depute Head Teacher for 0.5 of the week. Mrs Kirkland will be upping her hours slightly, and will also be 0.5, working alternate Wednesdays.

### **Covid-19 Restrictions and Guidance**

- The majority of restrictions have now been removed for educational establishments, mirroring the relaxing of restrictions in the wider community.
- We are still promoting good hygiene and hand-washing.
- Pupils and staff should stay at home if they are feeling unwell and symptomatic (high temperature, cough).
- Mask-wearing is still recommended – but not compulsory – indoors in large groups, therefore we are still encouraging staff to wear masks when moving around the school.
- Parents and carers are now allowed in the school, in a managed way, with priority given for transition activities.
- We are delighted that this means we are able to run with all of our planned transition activities for our new P1 cohort.
- Our classes are enjoying being out together for the first time in two years at playtimes and lunchtimes, and also enjoying the opportunity to choose where to sit in the dining room is a novelty. It is great to see these changes be welcomed so positively by pupils.

### **Class Configurations/Session 2022/2023**

- Our configuration exercise for the 2022/2023 session is underway already.
- Parents and carers were notified of the first 'round' of placing request decisions last week.
- We were informed of 16 successful placing requests, with 9 unsuccessful.
- This means that we currently have an intake of 60 new P1 pupils, with 54 P7 leavers.
- We predict that these numbers will continue to change in the run up to the end of the session.

### **The School Year/School Events**

- **Let's Celebrate Us Week:** Our Equality and Diversity Working Party have organised 'Let's Celebrate Us Week', which takes place next week. The focus is on celebrating diversity in the school and we have a whole host of fun activities planned, including a 'Breaking Boundaries' day, 'Dance Around the Word' activities, 'Outdoor Play Day' and lots of other opportunities
- **Developing the Young Workforce Week:** The following week is our 'Developing the Young Workforce' week, which will have a range of activities to help children explore the world of Work and develop their skills for learning, life and work. Activities include visitors to the school to discuss a variety of different occupations.
- **School Excursions:** We have had a number of class excursions, with classes visiting Bannockburn, the National Museum of Rural Life and Vikingar. Tomorrow we have classes visiting Five Sisters Zoo and the Science Centre, with more trips planned for the rest of the term. By the end of the session all classes will have experienced an educational excursion – thank you again for your support funding these events.
- **P7 Leaver Events:** I know that the Parent Council Events Subgroup are busy preparing for the P7 Leavers Disco, which we are delighted to see return. In addition to this, P7 are eagerly looking forward to their residential trip to Lockerbie.

### **School Business**

- **Parents' Evening:** we had our first virtual Parents' Evenings in March, and the response has been roundly positive – there were certainly plenty of plusses to the online system (and a few glitches!).

For next session we will be able to have parents and carers back in the building again, however, there might be a possibility of running a 'hybrid' model - we can consult and make a decision at the beginning of next session.

- **Start and Finish Times:** We consulted with parents/carers and staff around the question of keeping a staggered element to start and finish times from a traffic management perspective. We had almost 200 responses with 60% opting for retaining the split, but changing to infants/juniors and juniors/seniors. The only negative feedback received has been around younger pupils having to wait in the playground for their older siblings, and the implications in bad weather. We will consult again at the end of this term to plan ahead for the new session.
- **Outdoor Classroom:** You will hopefully have had a chance to see our beautiful outdoor classroom which was installed over Spring Break. We are delighted that this work has finally been completed and look forward to getting great use out of our new structure.
- **Bike Rack:** We are also delighted that our newly installed bike rack has been completed and is now fully usable. The timing has been great with the P6 Bikeability club. Hopefully this will continue to encourage pupils to cycle and scoot to school.
- **Traffic Management Audit:** A member of the Health and Safety Team from South Lanarkshire Council has met with myself and also visited the school at 3.00 to monitor traffic around the building and flag up action points. I have highlighted with her the key issues – pavement parking on Buchanan Drive, the requirement for our lines to be repainted, the Wednesday morning bin lorry, the business and yellow lines around the back of the school, in addition to the general dangerous driving and parking that we see and the number of 'near-miss' incidents we have seen. She is coming back to the school on Tuesday. Hopefully this will result in actions points to be followed up by appropriate departments within the local authority.

#### Requests for Help

- I am looking for a top up for the Family Support Fund if that would be agreeable – it would be hugely appreciated.
- I am also hoping that the Parent Council could fund the payment for our school app. This is a really important method of communicating with parents and carers.
- This session we have had very few opportunities to collect money directly for our school fund. In 'normal times' we would collect money from activities such as concert ticket sales and raffles. This means that I am having to ask the Parent Council to fund resources that we would have been in a position to fund ourselves previously.

#### Parent Council

- In order to drum up some support for the Parent Council I would like to propose that the final meeting of the session in June (if we are having a June meeting) is a face-to-face meeting with a social aspect. We could invite new parents/families along to meet with the Parent Council and discuss their role.
- I am also hoping that members of the Parent council will be able to attend some of our P1 transition events in order to engage our new families.

#### ▪ Subgroups

**Garden subgroup** – David congratulated Julie on the amazing new outdoor classroom that was installed over the holidays. Julie advised that she was so pleased to have some good news and she also confirmed that she has also been successful in securing funding of £2500 from South Lanarkshire Council's Climate Emergency Fund so this means that instead of the additional funding required from the OC being £4910 it is now only £2410 which is a great help. Both children and teachers have really enjoyed making use of the outdoor classroom already which has been great to see. Julie also confirmed that no bill has been received for the garden work yet so she will update when this is received. P7 children are also working in partnership with Grow 73 to create a legacy garden. Jayne was also contacted through facebook to see if we wanted logs for the garden which we have agreed to use which will be a great addition to this project and should be getting delivered to the school tonight.

**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.

**Induction subgroup** – Jayne asked if any help was needed with his and Jill advised that Pamela had already made the goody bags for the new P1s and Emma had updated the booklet so thanks for that. Jill will look at the other induction events coming up and liaise with Jen and send an e-mail out if any help required. We will now also be able to invite them along to the Calderwood Playground picnic now that the date has been set.

**Events subgroup** – Kelly confirmed that the event tomorrow is no longer a ladies night and, at the request of the school children for equality and diversity, it is now an 80s night with everyone welcome. Elaine and Emma are leading on this event and doing a great job. Elaine advised that the event is at Cambuslang Rugby Club tomorrow night at 7.30pm and tickets are still available. Thanks to Susanne and James for sponsoring the free glass of prosecco on arrival. Lots of games planned, 80s tunes, food and the raffle. Raffle tickets will also be sold in the playground tomorrow. Thanks also to Louise for all the fantastic props she has made for tomorrow night – it has been a great team effort. The next event is our summer event so after a discussion a decision has been made to do a scaled down version of a fair and we are calling it the Calderwood Playground Picnic and will be held outside on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May from 12pm-3pm. We will have stalls outside with our usual fun games. Dress down day to be arranged to request donations to be handed in to use at the picnic. This will be on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May and we will get some information regarding what kind of donations we would be glad to receive. We will also need helpers for on the day to set up and run the event. We are also going ahead with the P7 leavers dance which will be on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June and again we will need helpers. Susanne will be leading on this. We have also been asked if we are supplying the P7 leavers hoodies again this year and after discussion it was agreed that we should leave this as a one-off last year due to the circumstances the P7s had last year. David agreed to send an e-mail out to all members not present tonight to advise them of volunteers needed and what else has been discussed.

#### ▪ **Treasurers Report**

Gail advised that a discussion had taken place at the events night this week regarding funding and the fact that we haven't had a lot of money coming in. Once we pay for the garden there will not be a considerable amount of money left for us to use to support the school. Once everything recently requested is paid from the current balance we will have approximately £9498.00 left in unrestricted funds. As we have already agreed to pay for travel to class trips this has still to be deducted from this amount so it would be sensible to be cautious going forward to what we are agreeing to fund. It should also be noted that we are still waiting on the funds that will be potentially made from the ladies' night and whatever profit is made at our school event on 21<sup>st</sup> May. A general discussion took place regarding the request to fund the school App for next year. It was agreed that the App is an essential tool for the school, but it was questioned why South Lanarkshire Council do not fund this for the school. Jen advised that it is not deemed as essential by SLC and the school normally fund this from their own budget but due to the school not having things like concerts and the PC and school events joining up for funding there has been no additional funding directly into the school to cover this as all funds raised have come directly to PC. It was agreed by members that this will be

looked at potentially for the PC to fund given that hopefully next year the school will be able to run things like concerts etc to enable them to have their own funding to use.

Jayne confirmed that she will also be looking to order and fund the ties for the new P1s and for the P7 leavers so this will cost approximately £400. Jayne will also check with Edith in the office to see if any school badges are required. If anyone has any questions regarding PC funds, then you can contact her directly.

- **Any other business**

A general discussion took place regarding the next PC meeting as it is due to fall on the jubilee holiday on 2<sup>nd</sup> June so it was agreed to push it forward one week until 9<sup>th</sup> June. Jen asked if we wanted to meet in the school for the last meeting and it was agreed by everyone present that this was a great idea. We could also try and order snacks for that night too. We should also be looking at trying to promote this meeting to see if we can get more people to become involved in the PC as we need to increase numbers. A discussion also took place about representatives from the P.C attending a the new P1 event (Teddy Bear's Picnic) to try and promote joining the P.C to new parents joining the school.

- **Next meeting Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

**Meeting closed.**