



4th November 2021

PC Meeting

MINUTES

Members Present: Karen Douglas, Joanne Simpson, Kelly Anderson, Emma McIntyre, Chris McVey, Gayle McMillan, Elaine Miller, Aishah Ali, Pamela Armstrong, Jayne Swanson, Sarah McColl, Ashley Miles, Gail Wilson, Councillor Margaret Cowie.

Staff: Jen Innes, Jill Ring, Julie Kirkland, Nicola Allison, Gary Mowat, Maureen Waddell, Sinead Scambler,

Apologies: David Bhella, Monica Paul-Sharma, Louise Bradshaw, Laura Connor, Suzanne Morris, Councillor Robert Brown.

▪ Welcome

Karen welcomed everyone to the parent council meeting and advised that she was chair for this evening as David had to submit his apologies.

▪ 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

Karen advised that David had submitted an enquiry to South Lanarkshire Council Community Benefit Fund to see if we would qualify for additional funding towards our outdoor classroom project. David received an e-mail back advising that we had not been successful but he has advised that he will question this in more detail.

▪ Head Teacher Report – Jen Innes

Thank You

- Thank you very much for funding the treats for our Halloween celebration. The weather certainly worked against us, but hopefully everyone still had a great time and I know our Calderwoodies all enjoyed their treats when they arrived back at school – thank you to Monica and Kelly for purchasing these and making the bags up.
- Thank you to Louise and Kelly for running the Halloween costume swap shop. After a bit of a subdued start, they ended up with over 80 costumes for swapping, and it was a great success. Hopefully we can organise a similar initiative for Christmas jumpers!
- Thank you also for agreeing to the extra funding for our garden project. We now are just looking forward to work getting started so we can make the most of our outdoor classroom.
- Thank you for agreeing to fund the buses for our whole-school trip to the cinema next week. We really appreciate this, and hope that this will be a fun experience for pupils – our first trip for over a year and a half!

Covid-19 and Restrictions for Educational Settings

- As you are aware, at the time of our last Parent Council meeting, we were waiting on an update from the Scottish Government about Covid-19 restrictions in educational establishments. Due to levels of Covid-19 remaining relatively high, it was announced that there would be no changes made to the restrictions already in place as we head towards the winter. This means that all existing restrictions and precautions will remain in place for the foreseeable future.
- South Lanarkshire Council did give us some updated guidance around events and visitors in school which I shared with you at the previous meeting.
- We are still seeing a steady number of cases in the school and are still urging care and caution whilst numbers remain high in our community.

Staffing News

- We were very sorry to say ‘goodbye’ to our janitor Eddie on Friday, and even more sorry that he was not here for his last day due to illness. Eddie has been at Calderwood for 19 years, and he will be missed by staff, parents and pupils. We very much appreciate everything he has done to support Calderwoodies and Calderwood families over the years.
- We are delighted to welcome our new janitor, Kenny Coyle, to the school. He will be a great asset to Calderwood – please remember to say ‘hello’ when you see him out-and-about around the school.

School Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality Report

- Last night we held our first meeting for our working parties this session. This session, correlating to our School Improvement Plan priorities, we have four working parties who are focussing on Talk for Writing (a priority for Primary 3 and primary 5), Equality and Celebrating Diversity, Outdoor Learning and Developing the Young Workforce and Skills for Learning, Life and Work. There was lots of productive chat and planning, and I am certain that these groups will contribute to positive change within the school. We will be looking for parental input on these topics over the course of the session.

The School Year/School Events

- We have made a start with re-introducing after-school clubs, with Netball and Athletics already up-and-running, and more being planned for this term and beyond. A big thank you to all our staff and volunteers who are taking clubs.

- We have also been back to sporting competitions, with our P7s participating in a netball tournament and Sportshall Athletics over the past week – it is very exciting for our pupils to be engaging in these activities and participating in events beyond the school grounds.

School Business

- We welcomed the Flu Immunisation team to Calderwood on Friday, who vaccinated pupils and staff.
- You will have read our communication about dogs in and around the playground. We had taken a few complaints about dogs being carried into the playground, and also dogs being left unattended who were becoming distressed, and their barking was frightening some of our wee ones. The issue has improved significantly, and we are very grateful to all our parents and carers for their thoughtfulness – we in no way wanted to upset our dog-owning families.

Breakfast Club

- Hot-Off-The-Press! We have a provisional date for starting our Breakfast Club of 16th November. This has still to be confirmed by Support Services, and we will put a communication out to parents as soon as we have more information.
- I am also trying to negotiate the continuation of our 'Toast and Go' initiative alongside the Breakfast Club, as this has become very popular, and is such a lovely way for staff to welcome pupils in the morning. Again, I will update you as soon as I have any more information.

Community Work

- Room 14 and Ms McGuinness delivered their collections to Refuweegee on 25th October. They had to recruit more delivery volunteers due to the sheer number of donation, so thank you again to everyone who handed in donations. It was a very worthwhile project for Room 14 and we know their work was greatly appreciated by Refuweegee.

Sustainability

- COP26: Ms McGuire's Room 10 class, who are our Eco Leaders, had an incredible opportunity to participate in a project called 'The Moment' before the launch of COP26, where they were given an opportunity to voice their concerns about the environment and, more importantly, put forward their ideas and call to action to MSP Clare Haughey. This was an important opportunity for their voices, concerns and ideas to be heard, and they represented Calderwood proudly.
- COP26: All of the classes in the school have created a 'Forest of Promises' this week to align with COP26. Look out for the leaves hung around the school, with pupils making a promise of what they will try to do personally, but also a plea to those in charge of what they would like to see happen to prevent a climate emergency. Please have a look when you are around the school.
- Through South Lanarkshire Council, we have applied for a covered bike/scooter shelter to encourage even more families to cycle or scoot to school. Our bid for funding was successful, and we carried out a site visit today with work hopefully going ahead in January. We are planning for the shelter to be at the back gate so that we have 'parking' for bikes at both the back and the front of the school.
- We have also been successful in getting a solar panel fitted to the roof of the school. This work has gone out to tender, and we will update you when we have more details, but we are working hard to be a more sustainable, eco-friendly Calderwood.

Beat the Street

- We were delighted to come third in the competition – this means that every child in the school will get a metal water bottle and the school will receive £200 worth of vouchers.
- We want to thank every parent and carer who joined us on our walks, this is a fantastic initiative, not only promoting health and wellbeing, but also community spirit.
- We would also like to thank all our families who were our 'beating the street' on evenings and weekends. It was a great community effort and we thoroughly enjoyed participating once again.

Participatory Budgeting

- Since the last Parent Council meeting we have gone through the process of consulting with pupils, staff and parents to decide on our participatory budget spend.
- We put aside £5,500 from our Pupil Equity Fund – approximately 8% of the budget.
- We launched this process at a whole school assembly, and discussed with pupils what the Pupil Equity Fund is, what participatory budgeting meant, and how we were looking for an idea that would support either the learning or health and wellbeing of every child in the school.
- We then asked every class to have a discussion and put forward their ideas.
- We took those ideas to targeted pupil focus groups, and from these we managed to identify a very clear 'Top 3' and several ideas for a fourth option.
- We then took all of this information to a Parent Focus Group – made up of a range of parents with pupils in different stage. Thank you very much to Laura for taking a lead with

this and arranging the meeting. We had a very productive meeting and pulled together our 'Top 4' from here.

- We then launched a vote for our Top 4 ideas. These were:
 - Outdoor play equipment, e.g. football goals, basketball nets, outdoor games and 'loose parts' for play
 - Alternative reading materials, such as graphic novels, and additional books for our school and class libraries
 - A wide variety of craft and art materials to enhance expressive arts experiences and foster creativity
 - A range of resources/materials to promote resilience and support pupil's mental health and wellbeing
- We held a vote for parents and carers, staff and pupils. We had 100% return rates for our staff and pupil votes, and 318 votes from parents and carers.
- The overall winner was outdoor play equipment, e.g. football goals, basketball nets, outdoor games and 'loose parts' for play. This won by a large margin across all three votes.
- We are now looking forward to working with our pupils and parents to identify the best outdoor resources to spend our money on.

Eco Uniform/Christmas Jumper Swap Shop

- Thank you again for running the Halloween Swap Shop – after a bit of a slow start, it was a great success and went down really well with parents and carers
- I was hoping we could make a start on a similar initiative for Christmas jumpers relatively soon – I think parents will be up for this for both eco and financial reasons
- I was also thinking about a similar model for the eco-uniform – perhaps on a weekly or fortnightly basis outside the front of the school?

Primary 1-3 A Book, A Brew and a Bite

- We were hoping to run our 'A Book, A Brew and A Bite' virtually this year. We have held these events during Book Week Scotland for the past few years to launch the Read, Write, Count and Book Bug bags being given out to pupils. We were hoping to carry these out over Zoom and were wondering if the Parent Council would be happy for us to use their Zoom account for this purpose?

Primary 7 Residential Trip (Jillian Ring)

Jill discussed the potential for a residential trip for the current P7 children. South Lanarkshire Council have confirmed that no residential trips can take place until the final term after the Easter/spring holidays. Different options have been thought about and have confirmed that Lockerbie only have one week available left on 15th June which is really late in the term. This time of year is also peak prices and would cost almost £500 per pupil. They have offered a "bargain special" two night package which is from the Wednesday to Friday and this would still cost around £265 per pupil. The other option is to look at doing our own type of activities and Jill advised that she is currently working with a company regarding this which would cost £40 per day for each child. Jill advised that the school is really mindful that the children will also need to be bought kit for the activities which again pushes the price up so she was looking for some thoughts from the PC members regarding this. A general discussion took place regarding each idea mentioned and concerns were also raised when it was confirmed that there is no insurance that would cover this like there normally is so parents would need to sign off that if something happens they would lose their money which is a real challenge. Jen advised that South Lanarkshire's insurance policy for this kind of trip is not valid at the moment due to Covid-19. Pamela asked if the company in Luss could do an overnight stay with activities as the kids really enjoy the overnight stay part or could we look into a local hostel for them. Jill advised that this cannot happen with this company at the moment. Karen brought up the potential to go to Auchengillan as she knows the S1s at Stonelaw are going there for a day of activities for a cost of £20 per child and could this maybe be possible as she knows how important it is of the P7s. Jill advised that they could also look at their own activities and no matter what we will make sure the P7s have something they enjoy to make their last year special. Elaine advised that at least if it was the last term it would give people plenty of notice to start to save some money as we definitely do not want to be in a position where we leave children behind due to cost.

As Pamela has a current P7 in school Jill asked if she could chat to some other P7 parents, without the children knowing anything yet, to try and get their thoughts on what they would feel would be best for the kids and get back to Jill with suggestions. Pamela agreed to do this no problem. Sarah advised that she was aware that some schools get the kids to raise some of the money for their residential trip themselves and Jill advised that this could potentially be looked at. The school are really nervous about children missing out due to potentially having to self-isolate at the time and are worried about setting the kids up for a disappointment.

Reading Schools (Julie Kirkland)

Julie advised that lots of teachers have signed up to be involved in the group which is fantastic. Due to the group being oversubscribed it runs in two groups which is really positive. Currently planning book week Scotland for week beginning 15th November. Joanne will contact Julie with the names of member that wish to be involved in the group. They will also be launching the First Minister's reading challenge.

Garden (Julie Kirkland)

Julie thanked the PC for approving the additional funding and advised that the approval of the project has been put back out to tender. Really confident that this will go ahead and hopefully have a pre-start meeting before Christmas to agree a start date for work on the outdoor classroom.

▪ Subgroup New Structure

The PC had been provided with the potential new structure for the subgroups which will now include the following:

Sustainability subgroup
Community Engagement subgroup
Events subgroup
Reading subgroup

This new structure was agreed and will be implemented ASAP. Joanne asked if members could please respond to the new e-mail she will be sending out to confirm which group/s that they wish to be a part of and whether they are interested in being the lead in that group. Joanne re-iterated to all members present the importance of responding to e-mails as previously the return has been very poor. As soon as Joanne has all the responses collated she will have the groups set up for going forward by the next PC meeting.

A discussion also took place regarding launching this to the wider parent forum and it was agreed that we could use the finalised document for this and that the Community Engagement subgroup would look at this as a re-launch of the PC and possibly do a personal video and use twitter/school App, Facebook and school website.

▪ Subgroups

Events subgroup – Kelly advised the updated school guidance on Covid-19 did say that we could have a Christmas fair but the restrictions that would need to be in place are so tight considering how busy our fair is. Due to this we looked into an outside Christmas event later in the afternoon, using a large marquee down the side of the school with stalls. Emma looked into the cost for the marquee and that was far too expensive so we will possibly now look at something else instead. Ashley advised we could get reindeers at the school which would cost £350 for 90 minutes. Jayne suggested our own version of a Santa dash maybe in Overtoun park. We agreed that the best thing to do is step away from our Christmas fair due to Covid concerns and asked PC members present what their thoughts were. A general discussion took place regarding different ideas like the Santa dash/saunter and also other events like a dress down say to try and make up for some of our usual funding. Look at possible involving local groups like Friends of Overtoun or Grow 73. Look at some sort of raffle with possible big prizes. Look at ticketing event to control number. This will be discussed further in the upcoming events meeting that Kelly will organise. Jen advised that no matter what we will make a decision that is right for Calderwood and will send dates in November that suit the school for events. Elaine advised that she still has the 80s stuff from the cancelled ladies' night and also raffle prizes that can be used. It was discussed that we could possibly look at an outdoor Christmas tree and we also need volunteers for the Christmas jumper swap soon.

▪ Treasurers Report

It was agreed by all members present that Karen Douglas, David Bhella and Gail Wilson will all be approved as additional authorised signatures for the PC bank account. Gail advised that we were nearly there with the PC account and will update as soon as this is completed. Gail will also arrange to donate money from the PC to the school for the emergency hardship fund and will pass this to Jen as soon as possible.

▪ **Any other business**

Karen raised a point on behalf of the P1 parents regarding the school nativity and what will be happening this year. Jen advised that the nativity is taking place and will be held so that parents will still get an opportunity to see it as parents are still not allowed in the school. Karen also asked about the staggered start and finish times and whether this will remain in place once restrictions are eased. Jen advised that as present South Lanarkshire Council have advised that the school have to keep things as is and in order to keep a safe space for children and staff there will be no change to this at present. Jill reminded members that there is playground supervision in place for pupils and siblings that start at different times and Jen advised that she will put this information out again to make sure that people are aware of this. It was agreed that staggered start and finish times does help with the traffic around the school.

▪ **Next meeting Thursday 2nd December 2021.**

Meeting closed.