



2nd December 2021

PC Meeting

MINUTES

Members Present: David Bhella, Karen Douglas, Joanne Simpson, Emma McIntyre, Ashley Miles, Louise Bradshaw, Kelly Anderson, Sara Walker, Pamela Armstrong, Councillor Robert Brown, Gayle McMillan.

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

Apologies: Jayne Swanson, Chris McVey, Monica Paul-Sharma, Councillor Margaret Cowie, Lisa Kelly, Gail Wilson.

▪ **Welcome**

David welcomed everyone to the parent council meeting.

▪ **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.

▪ **Head Teacher Report – Jen Innes**

Thank You

· Thank you very much for supporting our virtual 'A Book, A Brew and A Bite' sessions through the Parent Council Zoom account. These worked well, and hopefully we will be able to use this platform again for other interactive events.

- Thanks for all the hard work organising Saturday's Santa Dash (and Dauner). I am sure the event will be lots of fun and make much-needed funds for Parent Council funds.
- Thank you also for organising the Christmas Jumper swap – hopefully there will be plenty of donations. It is definitely a worthwhile cause from both a financial and ecological perspective.

Covid-19 and Restrictions for Educational Settings

- We are seeing another surge in cases in school, and you will hopefully have seen my letter to parents and carers today explaining why we still need to stick to the guidance for educational establishments and asking for the support of families in following the 'rules' round isolation and testing. I am really just asking that we all do our bit.
- The letter also contained a reminder to parents and carers about wearing masks around the school, especially when coming into the bubble to speak to office staff.
- We are keen to safely navigate our way to the end of term without Covid having a significant effect on our planned activities, but it is a timely reminder that we are very much still in the midst of this pandemic.

School Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality Report

- On the Inset Day in November, staff engaged in training to support assessment, and then attended the launch of our new Pupil Portfolios. All pupils in the school have a portfolio to celebrate their progress in their learning journey and achievements.
- Our Diversity Ambassadors met for the first time today to take forward our Equality and Celebrating Diversity SIP improvement priority. We look forward to them taking the lead with this very important matter.
- Mrs Waddell and Mr Mowat have been offering training to staff to become Level 1 accredited Google Educators. We are delighted that so many staff have wanted to continue their training on this platform to the benefit of pupils.

The School Year/School Events

- We celebrated Book Week Scotland in the school in November with lots of fun events and activities and events, including 'A Book by the Fire' and 'A Book, A Brew and A Bite'. Thank you to Miss Scambler, Miss Cairns and Room 7 for organising.
- We also celebrated Anti-Bullying week the same week, kicking everything off with Odd Socks Day. Thank you to Mr Mowat and Room 11 for organising. Primary 4 to 7 enjoyed a virtual play called 'Hope' on the theme of anti-bullying and inclusion.
- We have lots of clubs running in the school, including sports clubs, Burns Clubs (we will be entering the Burns Competition virtually), Coding Clubs (run by Mrs Waddell and our P7 Digital Leaders), Science Club (with Mr Preiss) and our P4 Creative Play Club.
- We are looking forward to our Christmas events over the next couple of weeks, starting with Christmas jumper day and a whole school pantomime (virtual) on 10th December.
- Primary 1 are hard at work rehearsing and filming their Nativity, which we are sure parents and carers will love. We will also share the finished show with the rest of the school. Primary 1 will also be performing songs from their nativity at their P1 Sing-a-Long for parents and carers.
- Our Christmas outdoor 'sing-a-longs' for parents and carers will begin on 13th December. We hope this provides a fun opportunity for families to come along to watch their children perform whilst still staying

safe. We are grateful that the Parent Council have agreed to support these events. Our wish is to bring a bit of Christmas community spirit to Calderwood by giving parents and carers the opportunity to be involved in an event, and also spread some much-needed Christmas cheer. Fingers-crossed the weather is kind to us!

- Our Christmas parties also begin on 13th December. Pupils will be celebrating with their class, with time in the hall allocated for each class, and food and drink in the classroom. We were hoping that the Parent Council would help us by funding some snacks for pupils to enjoy at their parties.
- Ross Murray from our chaplaincy team will be in the school next Thursday to deliver Christmas Unwrapped with the Primary 6 classes – I am sure they will all really enjoy the fun activities.
- Room 6 will be running the Christmas Post this year. More details will follow shortly.
- We will have a Christmas Service at the end of the session – again, more details will follow.

School Business

- We welcomed the Flu Immunisation team back to Calderwood today, who vaccinated pupils and staff who had missed out first time around.
- Our next Parents' Evenings are scheduled for March, and we will need to make a decision on how these should run when we return from Christmas break. We are considering using an online platform to allow virtual meetings (we are fairly certain that face-to-face meetings will not be allowed).

Breakfast Club

- Our Breakfast Club has gotten off to a very successful start. We are seeing between 20 to 40 pupils each day. I would like to thank Lisa Kirkwood, our Support Services Coordinator, for all her support, as well as the staff who are operating the club (one of whom is a Calderwood parent!).
- We were delighted to have negotiated with Facilities to keep our 'Toast and Go' running in tandem with the Breakfast club – thanks to Susan and Emily from our kitchen for all their hard work in the morning feeding our Breakfast Club and making all the toast, too!

Requests for Help

- I just wanted to double check arrangements for our school sing-a-longs. Hopefully we will have for parent/carer volunteers to serve hot chocolate (and tea and coffee?) at the events? We would be looking for volunteers to come to the school for about 2.15pm.
- We are looking for a volunteer (or volunteers) to help wrap our P1 Christmas presents – if anyone finds wrapping therapeutic and wouldn't mind wrapping a bundle of books, please let me know.
- We are looking for the Parent Council to hopefully fund crisps and juice for our parties (week beginning 13th December)? We don't want to have our traditional 'buffet' due to Covid restrictions around the serving of food.
- We also wanted to ask if the Parent Council would fund an ice cream treat from Crolla's when pupils watch their pantomime on Friday 10th December?

Primary 7 Residential Trip (Jillian Ring)

Jill thanked Pamela for having a chat with other P7 mums. Based on all the feedback it has been overwhelmingly agreed to go ahead with the trip. The trip will now be on the second last week of term on

15th June 2022, for two nights, at a cost of £260. Jill advised that she will start the collection for the savings club after Christmas and also confirmed that although South Lanarkshire Council's insurance would not cover in the event of cancellation, Lockerbie Manor have advised that they will refund money if the trip is cancelled, we go into lockdown again or a child has to self-isolate and it unable to attend.

At the end of the report David asked if PC are happy to find the treats for the Christmas parties and the Panto and it was agreed by all members present that the PC would be happy to fund this.

David also advised that he will send another e-mail out regarding volunteers for the concerts and also arrange for the donation buckets at the concerts to be branded.

▪ **Match Funding**

A huge thanks was given to Elaine for organising match funding through her employer, The Robertson Trust, who have amazingly agreed to match fund our takings from recent events. This will have a huge impact on what we can achieve going forward as a parent council so thank you so much.

▪ **Subgroups**

Reading Subgroup – Julie provided an update on this new subgroup and thanked the PC again for allowing them to use the PC Zoom account for the 'A Book, A Brew and a Bite' event. The event went really well and the kids loved being able to see their grown up when they were in their classroom. Julie advised that this group is now up and running and thanked Joanne for passing on the names of members who are interested in taking part

Garden subgroup – Julie confirmed that that contract for the garden works had now been awarded and there is a site visit due to take place on 7th December with a view to works potentially starting in the garden after the Christmas break. Julie will provide a further update at the next meeting.

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.

Events subgroup – Kelly advised that all donations for the raffle are with her and they are currently being sorted out and we will sell them on Saturday at our event and also at the concerts. We could possibly also do this before and after school and look at a facebook live raffle after this. Ashley provided an update on the Santa Dash on Saturday. 150 people have already registered and she has just found out that another 20 families have paid to take part but not actually registered so the number of people who will be attending is looking good. Still considering whether to race around the playground instead and do a short dash with some Christmas characters and then walk around the school. We are still looking for volunteers and we also need gazebos and light boxes for on the day. Dash starts at 11am and Jen advised she will upload a reminder of the event on the School App. It was confirmed that the quiz night was cancelled and we will look to revisit this in the new year. A new meeting will also be arranged for the group in the new year.

A general discussion then took place regarding worries over PC involvement in subgroups as the numbers are pretty low, even though we have a very large PC group. Concerns were raised over the fact that it seems to be the same people that are volunteering for things and joining groups and we need to look at finding a way to share the load more evenly across the entire PC membership going forward. This will need to be looked at in the new year and a plan made going forward, as we have also to try and encourage as many members of the wider parent forum to also join the subgroups now that the new structure has been agreed.

- **Treasurers Report**

Gail was unable to make the meeting tonight but advised if there were any questions regarding PC funds then you can contact her directly.

- **Any other business**

Jen advised thanked the PC for the top up for the hardship funds which Gail had dropped into her and also advised that winter jackets and coats had also been handed into the school.

- **Next meeting Thursday 3rd February 2022**

Meeting closed.