

MINUTE OF MEETING OF LAIRDSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

LOCATION: VIA MS TEAMS

DATE: TUESDAY 16TH MARCH 2021

TIME: 6PM

ATTENDANCE

Fiona Donaghey, Libby Bradford, Maria Kerr, Nigel Rooke, Claire Henderson, Sandra McEntee, Emma Alkirwi, Evelyn Abernethy, Inah Omoronyia, Deniz Uster-Harrup, Gaynor Furie

APOLOGIES

Ainsley Stewart, Maria Ruthven

MATTERS ARISING / MINUTE OF LAST MEETING

Matters Arising – none. The February minute was approved.

ROLE OF FAMILY LEARNING ASSISTANT – KELLY QUAIL

Kelly was invited to join the meeting to talk about her role as Family Learning Assistant within the school, and to answer any questions the PC may have. She will essentially support families via different interventions. The pandemic has made it more challenging for Kelly to engage with families so she plans to increase her presence in the playground to help raise her profile with parents and families.

**** ACTION POINT ** - Parent Council were invited to email Kelly Quail with any ideas/questions they may have and were asked to help raise awareness of her within the wider parent community.**

PROPOSAL FOR PILOT OF TRAFFIC FREE SCHOOLS

Lairdsland has been identified as a potential school to pilot the scheme of Traffic Free Schools and the Parent Council have been asked if they would give an agreement “in principle” to this should the school meet all of the assessment criteria (we have already met the criteria of the first two stages to reach this point). Discussion was opened up to members. The main points/concerns raised were as follows:

- Concern regarding the knock on effect in neighbouring streets – are we just moving the problem further out? Northbank Road and the area in to The Greens were both noted as streets of concern. We have no knowledge of what the restrictions will look like so difficult to know.
- Is there a “road map” of the process available? There was a worry that a pilot could turn into a long term proposition without adequate means to return back if it was felt not to be working.

- What is the success criteria of the pilot? What will determine whether or not the pilot has been a success? There is currently no information on this.
- Due to the impact of the pandemic, there is currently less traffic in the area but what will this look like as things begin to ease? Maybe need to monitor this before progressing with a pilot.
- Concern over how long a school drop-off/pick-up might take. Lots of families have time constraints due to working commitments and this could become a problem for them.
- Concern that we should be asking the wider parent community whether or not they would agree with the scheme. FD had taken direction from EDC previously on this matter and confirmed there will be no whole school consultation at this stage.

Due to Lairdsland having historically had significant issues in relation to parking and traffic, the conclusion was reached that whilst the Parent Council feels 'in principle' able to support the notion of a traffic free pilot, there does need to be clarification / further information given on the points raised above before proceeding further.

**** ACTION POINT ** - NR will draft a letter with this response and circulate to all members for comment before submission.**

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

On Monday 22nd February, our P1-3 pupils returned to school, whilst remote learning continued for P4-7. Overall the transition back was smooth and the P1-3 pupils adapted back to routines and school life well.

Yesterday the P4-7 pupils returned full time. There were some enhanced transition processes for those we thought required a little extra support given the extended absence. These were identified through prior knowledge of the pupils/families and phone calls from parents.

All staff who work within the school are now able to take part in twice weekly LF testing. We also currently have 2 COVID day cleaners as well as our normal evening cleaners.

P1 registration – approximately 48 registered, but there will be deferrals and placing requests in/out within those numbers. Likely to require 2 P1 classes – 12 class structure again.

P7-S1 transition Robyn Sinclair and S3 pupils hosted teams meet with p7 pupils to share information and ask FAQ.

COMMUNICATIONS TO PARENTS (INCLUDING DISCUSSION OF CHILDREN'S PROGRESS)

Updated guidance from EDC highlights consultation with staff and PC whilst ensuring that workload and Working Time Agreement for staff is considered. Advice remains not to replicate a parents' night approach, however does advise that parents should have the opportunity, where required, to discuss their child's progress with a member of staff. Awaiting further guidance from EDC but it will be next term before any valuable reporting will take place. On this point, Parent Council members felt that in the absence of a face to face parents' night, a telephone call would be good.

Monitoring and tracking meetings are taking place this week between SMT and P1-3 class teachers to look at how pupils are progressing and identify any interventions required. This will begin for P4-7 once they have been back at school for a couple of weeks.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

We have made progress this session in all areas of the SIP, although this has been affected by closure to a certain extent. Recovery priorities have been health & wellbeing, transition and addressing learning loss and that remains the same. We have utilised Spark counselling service for some of our senior pupils and have made further referrals for work up until June. Our Family Learning Assistant has been linking in with families to support across a number of areas eg employment, financial support, advocacy services, dealing with loss etc.

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EARLY YEARS CENTRE

Fiona and Adele had a site visit late February. No date for opening at present. Furniture and resources are due to be delivered over the next couple of weeks and a small number of staff will be onsite to set up. The Deputy Head of Centre, Senior and Teacher have begun to work on an EYC plan for opening and are looking at establishing staff and supporting transition for children.

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

World Book Day and Community Clubs – invited parent volunteers and engagement but very limited responses.

CHAIRS REPORT

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

Pre-Covid there was great success surrounding the numbers of parents who were getting involved. Request that we have a discussion in the last term about how it might look again post Covid.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

None

MEETING DATES FOR 2020/2021

Tuesday 4th May 2021