

MINUTE OF MEETING OF LAIRDSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

LOCATION: VIA MS TEAMS

DATE: TUESDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2021

TIME: 5.30PM

MATTERS ARISING / MINUTE OF LAST MEETING

Minute of last meeting was agreed and all action points were actioned.

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

The Scottish Government has retained most Covid measures in primary schools with one change – the removal of bubbles (with appropriate risk measures) for children. Advice from Authority is that parents/carers should continue to wear masks in the playground, and most parents continue to observe this guidance. Despite rising case numbers within East Dunbartonshire, as a school, our numbers remain relatively low.

The authority has issued a change with respect to the reporting to parents procedure, with approval being granted for telephone appointments. Currently looking at the logistics of this but hopeful that this will be offered to parents before the October break. A parent member questioned if a Teams video call could be offered instead of a phone call? FD explained that unfortunately it is not possible for video calls to be facilitated for both operational and IT reasons. The platform we are authorised to use for video calls is MS teams, however only Corporate Teams accounts allow us to invite parents online and teaching staff do not have a corporate account.

Curriculum Evening Presentations - as we are unable to invite parents and carers into school at present, we have arranged to provide some useful information for each class in a digital format. Each class teacher(s) has put together a presentation with some information to let parents get to know a little bit about their child's new class, routines, homework, PE, curriculum content etc. These are in the form of Youtube links and will be live on the school website as of next week (<http://www.lairdland.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/learning/curriculum-presentation-videos>).

To date, our main online platform has been MS Teams but we are currently looking into trialling a platform called Seesaw as a potential alternative. This is an online app where children's learning can be documented via an online journal / portfolio. One major benefit of Seesaw is that only the parent/family can see the child's work so it is a more secure platform. Your child and school staff will be able to add the things that they work on, including photos, videos, worksheets, drawings, to their Seesaw journal and share them privately with you and other family members throughout the school year. Children cannot see each other's work and their responses to schoolwork/homework will be personal and stored in their journal. Our digital leader, Miss Hill, is currently looking at the platform and will continue to share information and findings.

There was significant discussion surrounding digital homework versus paper copies, with a mix of opinions expressed as to which was best. As a school we have found that the uptake of digital homework has been less than with paper copies.

**** ACTION POINT ****

FD to issue a short survey to parents to get a wider view on homework preferences in general.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

FD set out the School Improvement Plan for this session and explained in some detail how it is decided upon. The main priorities include raising attainment in numeracy and literacy, and an improvement in children's and young people's mental health and well-being. There will be continued development in other areas with the following members of staff being assigned:

- Literacy – Mrs Bradford
- Numeracy – Mrs Kerr
- Outdoor Learning and Parental Engagement – Mrs Greer
- Social Studies – Mrs Paterson
- Nurture – Miss Swart
- Digital Leader – Miss Hill

Teachers have also been assigned to lead various pupil committees:

- Pupil Council – Miss Hill
- Eco-Committee – Miss Mardle & Miss Ahmad
- Rights Respecting School – Miss Henderson
- Sports Committee – Mrs Paterson

There was significant discussion around the SIP and questions raised as to how it's success is measured, how parents know that we are listening to them and how we can talk to parents about the SIP in an accessible and meaningful way. It was asked if we could perhaps demonstrate how the survey results have affected the SIP as it was felt that this would help to highlight to parents that their contributions are helpful and would thereby encourage continued support.

**** ACTION POINT ****

FD to feedback on survey and show that survey results have influenced the school improvement plan.

EARLY YEARS CENTRE

The Centre is now open and operating at a capacity of 55 children with the 2-3 room being busier than the 3-5 room.

CHAIRS REPORT

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT 2021/22

Mrs Greer is currently exploring ways in which parents can get involved and is going to be involving our two new members of teaching staff in the Eco Committee. A request was made to put it on the agenda for the next meeting to have a longer conversation about Parental Involvement.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

It was brought to the attention of the Parent Council that the constitution needs to be updated.

**** ACTION POINT ****

NR agreed to redraft the Constitution, a copy of which will be circulated prior to next meeting, for discussion/approval

SM raised the issue of bikes and scooters in the playground being tampered with by other children. FD acknowledged that a parent had contacted the school about this issue and the children have been reminded to be mindful and respectful of other peoples' property.

AGM

Nigel Rooke is happy to remain as Chair with Tia Ruthven-MacArthur as Vice Chair. There were no objections.

MEETING DATES FOR 2021/22

19th October @ 5.30pm (there will be another discussion to see if revised arrangements suit)

7th December

25th January

22nd March (amended from 15th March)

3rd May

14th June