

# MINUTE OF MEETING OF LAIRDSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

**LOCATION: VIA MS TEAMS**

**DATE: TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> MAY 2022**

**TIME: 6.00PM**

## **MATTERS ARISING / MINUTE OF LAST MEETING**

The minute of the last meeting was agreed and it was agreed that one of the action points would be followed up.

**\*\* ACTION POINT (FOLLOW UP) \*\*** After the last meeting NR contacted Thomas McMenamin regarding the parking issues outside the school. TM said he would approach the legal department regarding sending out a letter. NR has agreed to chase this up.

## **FAMILY LEARNING/COFFEE MORNINGS – KELLY QUAIL**

KQ was invited to talk at the meeting about her plans for parental engagement within her role. She will be holding her first informal coffee morning on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May from 9-11am, and this has been communicated to parents via Groupcall. This will be an excellent opportunity to start welcoming parents back into the school.

Whilst the coffee mornings will be open to parents of the whole school, KQ is also going to be offering some targeted activities which will include:

- Family Learning Sessions for the P1s and P2s.
- Wellbeing Wednesdays – this will include family fitness sessions and walks to the park etc.
- Come cook with me sessions

These will hopefully be starting within the next couple of weeks. KQ would also like to raise awareness of her partnership with local foodbank. She has a few targeted families that already use the facility but we need more parents to be aware that this service is available within the school.

To help raise awareness among parents, EA has offered to post an advert promoting all of the above on the PTA facebook page.

**\*\* ACTION POINT \*\*** KQ to send EA a poster that can be put on the PTA facebook page.

NR discussed how we re-invest with parents moving forward, and suggested that perhaps we need to prepare a general communication explaining to parents how they can get involved in school life.

**\*\* ACTION POINT \*\*** - NR will draft a short article to convey how parents can get involved. He will endeavour to have this ready so that it can be presented at the P1 induction presentation on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

He may also record a video which could be shown at the induction. Claire Henderson is going to represent the PTA at this induction.

## **HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT**

### **SCHOOL LIFE**

We are returning to a sense of normality in day to day school life, for example, with the removal of staggered start and finish times. So far there have been a couple of teething issues but it is working well on the whole. P1-P3 have been asked to stay off the MUGA before school starts as we cannot staff this area in the mornings. All class bubbles have been removed, but for operational purposes we are going to continue with the children being in playground zones during break and lunch times. This has been easier for staff to manage, playground issues have been far less and children have received a fair amount of time in each zone.

NR asked if any other procedures would remain post covid? FD confirmed that the staggered lunches will stay and we will be keeping SMT presence in the playground. We are also keen to continue to minimise the number of adults in the playground at drop off and pick up as this does help, especially with the younger children.

The latest guidance has suggested that we shouldn't rush back into doing everything that we did pre-covid but we are definitely making a real effort to return to normality: we currently have beat buddies in school once a week, swimming lessons are taking place for P5s and P6s, a summer trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park has been arranged for P1-P6s and our P7s can look forward to paddleboarding, bowling and a graduation disco. We have tried really hard to re-introduce lots of things.

Updated guidance was issued to all parents today and children and staff should only stay at home if they have a fever.

The placing request process has now been finalised for the P1s and P7s. We have 40 new P1s starting after August (including a number of PRs). Transition visits have started today for the P1s. We have kept back a small number of places for catchment children given the number of new houses being built within our catchment area. NR queried the council's decision to give away so many spaces when there are so many new houses being built, but FD explained that she can only hold a certain number of spaces back for catchment children and has no jurisdiction in the process. The PTA agreed that it will cover the cost of the ties for the new P1s and the P7s.

FD will now be starting to look at class structure for next session and this should be finalised by June so that class and teacher details can be communicated to parents before the end of term.

P7 transitions have now begun and we are liaising with 3 high schools regarding transition visits: Lenzie Academy, Kirkintilloch High School and St Ninians. We are delighted that the P7 graduation assembly will be held in person this year and we will be able to invite parents and carers back into the school to enjoy this event. It is likely that we will need to have two performances, but we are currently looking in to the logistics of this, and more information will follow in due course. The PTA have kindly agreed to cover the cost of the Primary 7s to go for lunch and bowling after their graduation assemblies.

Wellbeing week is w/c 6<sup>th</sup> June with sports activities being held on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June. Parents will be invited in to the school grounds to attend this event.

Full school assemblies in the gym hall have resumed this week and it all went very well.

There is an in service day on Thursday this week and we will be using the time to look at evaluating School Improvement Plan priorities and will feedback on this at the next meeting. We will also be doing another parent survey this term.

Parent calls have now taken place and all went well. In person meetings will resume in the new academic year so our first parents evening should be held in September/October 2022. Written reports will be issued in June before the end of the session.

### **EARLY YEARS CENTRE**

There has been a change in leadership within Lairdsland EYC with a new Acting Depute in place until September. The post is now held by Shona Blair, who came from Craighead Nursery.

NR raised the question again of EYC involvement with the Parent Council – how do we include them? FD doesn't have a solution as yet. It is complicated by the fact that not all nursery children will be catchment for Lairdsland Primary, and as such may not be representative of the Lairdsland community so it may be better to have a separate Parent Council for the Early Years Centre.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

NR raised question of music provision. This has definitely been impacted due to covid but our instrumental instructor will be looking to send something out to our P5s this term to audition so they will still get 2 years of tuition.

NR mentioned Locavore, a new social enterprise supermarket, that is now open on the Cowgate, Kirkintilloch. NR knows the manager and will put him in touch with the school to talk to the children about fairtrade and organic farming.

EA raised the point that the website does not reflect an up to date picture of the PTA.

**\*\*ACTION POINT\*\*** EA to email details of PTA members to GF who will update the website.

### **MEETING DATES FOR 2021/22**

14<sup>th</sup> June @ 6.00pm (TEAMS)