

MINUTE OF MEETING OF LAIRDSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

LOCATION: VIA MS TEAMS

DATE: TUESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2022

TIME: 6.00PM

MATTERS ARISING / MINUTE OF LAST MEETING

The minute of the last meeting was agreed and all action points were completed.

The chair opened the meeting with an introduction to the new parent members and explained the role of the Parent Council as set out in the constitution (a copy of which was circulated to new members in advance of the meeting).

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

NEW SCHOOL YEAR

We have enjoyed a really busy start to the new session and, on the whole, the children have settled well in to the new routines. It has been a much more normal return to school that we have been able to enjoy this year but we will continue to monitor and review daily routines and make any necessary adjustments. For example, break time for the whole school is now 10.30-10.45am (instead of 10.15-10.30am). The teachers felt they needed more time in the mornings before stopping for break. We will continue to have staggered lunches at the following times: P1-P4 (12.00-12.45pm) and P5-P7 (12.30 – 1.15pm).

EMERGING ISSUES

There is the ongoing threat of strike action, but we feel ready to cope and contingency plans are in place so that we could move at short notice. We would implement a mixed model to supply learning packs to all children: paper packs for the infant school and online packs (via Seesaw) for our older pupils. However, if teachers vote to strike then home learning will obviously not be provided.

With respect to the long term impact of Covid and other stresses currently on families with the increased cost of living, we are employing a number of wellbeing interventions across the school. The Family Learning Assistant continues to work with a small number of families and she has set up a clothing bank and food bank so that we are able to help families in crisis. We are keen to advertise this via word of mouth rather than a formal communication from the school, and would therefore appreciate the help of the parent members here to help spread the word.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

In June we issued a questionnaire to parents & carers asking for their input on various aspects of school life and we received a total of 40 responses, the results of which have now been analysed. There was a real mix of responses, but one area of concern was with regards to our methods of communication, with some parents reporting that they feel bombarded via various channels. FD is currently drafting a leaflet to parents which will explain what each channel is used for. NR expressed his belief that Seesaw should be used for pupil's individual work and not for general communication.

From the results of the survey, the message was that there was most need for focus in writing and numeracy and this ties in with our analysis of the attainment data.

FD explained that the two main priorities (and where we will allocate most of our collegiate time this year) are improving our school and writing. There will also be continued development in all other areas, with MK leading development in numeracy. MK and LB were invited to talk about each of our priorities in more detail.

Improving our school (Maria Kerr)

Lairdsland is one of a number of participating schools over seven local authorities that has been invited to take part in this whole school professional programme, which focuses on high quality teaching and learning. We will be doing the programme over 2 years and some of the key features and benefits include:

- Looking closely at self evaluation
- whole school senior leadership journals and observations of class teachers
- looking at highly effective teaching practices.
- Peer observations.
- Allowing staff to upskill themselves

Staff are due to take part in their first webinar soon and it will allow for positive change in a lot of areas.

Writing (Libby Bradford)

LB spoke in depth about our literacy programme across the board (including listening, talking and writing) and the resources that are being provided. The biggest change is with the introduction of our new spelling programme which has now been fully implemented across P1-P4. The senior school (P5-P7) will continue to focus on our existing resource (Nelsons) but will adopt the new teaching strategies from the new programme. All classes will be doing a daily spelling activity which will last for 30 minutes.

We have also produced new homework grids which will allow for a variety of activities across the week and we have access to Sumdog spelling for reinforcement. We have taken an active approach to practising spelling offering a mix of activities (both online and not) so that there is something to suit everyone. We are open to changing and developing this as we go along.

The chair opened the floor to any questions. DUH asked if we would be renewing our subscription for Education City? FD explained that as there is no budget allocated to these subscriptions and the fact that they are very costly, we have to prioritise our subscriptions based on usage statistics and so we would not be renewing the Education City one at this time.

NR raised the point that he believes parents would appreciate a simple explanation as to how their survey responses have affected the SIP, and questioned how we could give this to parents in a tangible format. For example, could there be a slide pack goes on the website? Parents need to understand how their response impacts the SIP.

**** ACTION POINT ****

FD will have a look at a format that she could share on the website to communicate this information to parents

EARLY YEARS CENTRE

We have now changed pick up and drop off arrangements with parents now being allowed in the centre.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT 2022/23

This is currently moving in the right direction. We held a Curriculum Evening on 6th Sept which was well attended. There are Stay & Play sessions for P1 parents happening next week. We now have parent representation on all of our committees and our after school clubs are back in full swing.

CHAIR'S REPORT

NR requested that any topics for discussion at the next meeting be emailed to him in advance so that they could be added to the agenda.

AGM

NR was reappointed as Chair of the Parent Council and Sandra McEntee was voted in as Vice Chair.

MEETING DATES FOR 2022/23

It was agreed that we would continue to hold meetings on Teams at 6pm but if anyone felt that they would like this to change, it could be added as a topic for discussion on the agenda. The following dates were agreed for 2022/23:

- 25th October
- 13th December
- 31st January
- 21st March
- 2nd May
- 13th June