

MINUTE OF MEETING OF LAIRDSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

LOCATION: VIA MS TEAMS

DATE: TUESDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2023

TIME: 6.00PM

MATTERS ARISING / MINUTE OF LAST MEETING

The minute of the last meeting was agreed.

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

NEW SCHOOL YEAR

We are now a few weeks into the new session and all the children are settling well into their new classes and the school routines. We had 41 new P1s start with us this year and they are also all settling in well. A staffing change to note is that Miss De Souza did not return in August as she tendered her resignation over the summer break. She was due to take over the role of nurture teacher from Mrs Duffy, who will be start her maternity leave after the October break. We are now recruiting for the post on My Job Scotland and the advert closes on Monday.

NR queried the current school roll and the impact on catchment places. FD confirmed the current roll is 310 pupils so whilst we are at full capacity in a couple of year groups, this is not the case for all year groups. FD also explained that this does not mean that these year groups will consistently be at full capacity as it will depend on the class structure next year (we are always keen to keep some catchment places at the start of the school year).

EMERGING ISSUES

There is potential strike action from the non-teaching staff planned for 26th, 27th and 28th September. There are currently discussions taking place at Education HQ to agree a minimum standard plan across the authority should these strikes go ahead.

STANDARDS & QUALITY REPORT 2022/23

This week we received our Standards and Quality Report for 2022/23 back from HQ. Some key points from the report were highlighted (see below) but the full report will be published, and available to all on our website within the next couple of weeks

Key Points:

- Improving our school – this is a 2 year programme so it will continue this year

- Raising attainment in literacy and writing – this is a 3 year plan and we are now coming in to our third year.
- We have been awarded Bronze for Rights Respecting Schools for Scotland and we are now working towards silver (Mrs Paterson is leading this)
- There is evidence to suggest that there is a poverty related attainment gap (this is wider in literacy than in numeracy but present in both). There is a commitment for this financial year and the next financial year to close the gap. Lairdsland will continue to use its PEF money for staffing and resources. Our PEF for last year was £71,000 and it will be the same again for this financial year. NR pointed out that £71K this year is not the same as £71K last year due to salary increases and FD confirmed that this is indeed the case.
- SNSAs for P1, P4 & P7 pupils were completed last session. Whilst we don't report the results of these to parents, they are used for teachers planning. They are also used to measure ourselves against other comparable schools.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2023/24

The main priorities for this are:

- Improving our school (year 2 of 2)
- Raising attainment in literacy (year 3 of 3)
- Improvement in young people's mental health and wellbeing (shine survey)

**** ACTION POINT ** NR requested that the SIP is put back on the agenda for the October meeting and GF will circulate a copy of this to all members in advance of the next meeting.**

For the wider parent community, it will be available to read on the school website and FD will advise parents of this in the next newsletter. NR asked if FD could do a 'parent-friendly' summary of it for the newsletter.

**** ACTION POINT ** FD to prepare a summary of the SIP for the newsletter.**

EARLY YEARS CENTRE

The EYC had a Care Inspectorate visit in May 2023 whereby we received 2 ratings of good and 2 ratings of adequate. There were no targeted recommendations and therefore no requirement for a follow up visit. The next visit will just be the normal scheduled one. The care inspectorate were satisfied that there would be a continued improvement under the current management.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT 2023/24

There will be lots of opportunities for parental engagement this term. We have already held our Curriculum Evenings and we are in the process of planning for our Parents Evening in October. There are P1 stay and play sessions planned for the first week in October and there are maths workshops being held for P3 & P4. There will be parent assemblies throughout the year with all year groups having at least one assembly that parents will be invited to attend. Mrs Paterson has a targeted request for Parent Engagement that is due to go out this week which contains detailed specifications of how parents can help, and what would be required of them.

NR asked if there would be a possibility to host a list of Parental Engagement opportunities on the website? He would be willing to help with the writing/wording of this.

SMcE suggested that it would maybe be helpful to almost have a “job spec” for these opportunities – ie what is expected of parents volunteering, how much time would they need to give up. She said that she often didn’t volunteer as she has no idea what would be expected of her. FD said we tend to take a “no time is too little” approach when it comes to parents helping, but that the targeted request from Mrs Paterson does detail what would be required of them.

On the subject of emails being sent out by the school, one parent member raised the issue regarding the volume of emails being received and questioned if it was possible to categorise these emails in any way to show their degree of importance/relevance? It was suggested that this would not be possible as it is not for us to say what is important and what is not important since people may have different priorities and what is important to one may be less so to another.

With large budget cuts this year, there has been an agreement reached with the PTA that they will fund a number of activities for the children including swimming lessons and Clyde in the Classroom for the P5s and Scottish Opera for the P6s and P7s . This will cover the whole of the upper school corridor and there will also be opportunities for the lower school aswell.

CHAIR’S REPORT

NR spoke about maternity cover for FD, who will finish up at the October break. He has spoken to Greg Bremner and pleaded our case that it will need to be someone with HT experience given the size of the school and the fact that the EYC is attached to the school. Advert closes on Monday and NR hopes that GB will be back in touch then.

NR asked that any topics for future discussion are emailed in advance of the meeting so that they can be added to the agenda. Dates have been proposed for the next session but these may be subject to change.

AGM

The only interest for the role of Chair and Vice Chair of the Parent Council was received from the current post holders and as there were no objections, NR and SMcE were reappointed to their respective positions of Chair and Vice Chair. The Parent Council is formed of the following people:

Nigel Rooke – Chair
Sandra McEntee – Vice Chair
Claire Hyslop – Parent Member
Emma Alkirwi – Parent Member
Evelyn Abernethy – Parent Member
Deniz Uster Harrup – Parent Member
Ainsley Stewart – Parent Member
Margaret Noszczyk-McLean – Parent Member
Kirsty McEwen – Parent Member
Andrew Mawston – Parent Member
Ruzooka Rwakishasha – Parent Member
Sravan Kumar Vadaga – Parent Member
Gaynor Furie – Clerk

Members confirmed they are happy that Parent Council meetings would continue to be held at 6pm on Tuesdays on Teams.

MEETING DATES FOR NEW SESSION

24th October
5th December
23rd January
5th March
30th April
11th June