

MINUTE OF MEETING OF LAIRDSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

LOCATION: VIA MS TEAMS

DATE: TUESDAY 5th DECEMBER 2023

TIME: 6.00PM

MATTERS ARISING / MINUTE OF LAST MEETING

All action points were completed:

Parent-friendly SIP – circulated in advance and link to full SIP available.

Staffing Changes – all updated in latest newsletter that went out

Allocation of PEF funding – goes on staffing resources.

The minute was agreed. GF to upload on website.

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

School roll is now 313 pupils. Three new pupils have started since our last meeting.

Gabrielle Gorman has now started in her role as nurture teacher so all posts are now filled and everyone has started.

EMERGING ISSUES

This session's P1 intake was 41 which was quite high. MG will be working with the local authority / HQ to manage the numbers coming in next session as this will impact on the rest of the school. We have to consider the areas that we have and the plan is to manage that area and see if it can be scaled back. This might affect the number of placing requests in to the school that we can take.

Another emerging issue is that of the P7 residential trip for next session. We have started to look at the costs for our usual supplier but they have risen significantly and we are now having to look at the various options available. One of the problems is that the subsidy for families on FSM has remained at £140 for many years now and there is no plan for this to be increased, therefore cost to families has increased significantly.

****ACTION POINT** NR will ask the question of our 3 local elected members why the subsidy has never increased.**

Need to look at alternative centres or other options to subsidise the costs, eg asking the PTA to pay for the bus or parent fundraising. The question was asked whether or not EDC has a bank of minibuses that could be used to help reduce costs.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2023/24

We are coming to the end of the “improving our schools” programme. Teachers have been working in groups of three watching each other teach – teachers have all found it very beneficial. MK has done a great job of managing and co-ordinating all of this. NR said that he was very happy with the simplified SIP and it was good that we had been able to produce this.

EARLY YEARS CENTRE

The EYC SIP is in the final stages of being completed and hopeful that it will be on the website before we break for Christmas. They are working on Community engagement and getting out and about locally. A group of children came to watch the P4 & P5 Scottish Assembly and there will be another group coming to watch the P1 & P2 Nativity.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT 2023/24

Parental involvement is progressing. We have had parent volunteers leading the afterschool football team training for P6s and P7s, and another parent volunteer has been taking the P7 choir. Our gardening club grew potatoes and then made them in to potato wedges. Mrs Paterson continues to develop parental involvement with committees and feels at present the balance is appropriate.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We recently had our P4 & P5 Scottish Assembly which was very well attended and the feedback has been excellent.

Kelly Quail is working hard to maintain our foodbank and we have a number of families who utilise this. She is also working closely with charities Jeanie’s Weans and Babes in the wood to ensure that disadvantaged families will have gifts this Christmas.

Some of our P7s took part in the EDC Christmas Gala Concert last night – it was enjoyed by all.

Many of our classes have had the opportunity to go out on local Rights Respecting walks in the local community.

P7s have enjoyed bikeability sessions in the community.

Our P5 year group will be attending a festive fun day at St Marys Church this week.

MG feels that it is very important to see our school’s presence in the community as learning goes far beyond the school walls and NR said it was lovely to see such a full agenda.

There were no further questions.

CHAIR’S REPORT

NR had nothing specific to report on but requested again that any topics for discussion be emailed to him before the next meeting so that they can be put on the agenda.

The question of breakfast club was raised – a parent asked about the possibility of having one in school. We offer a targeted breakfast club at present. MG suggested that if there was a demand for it, then parents would need to contact the council directly.

MEETING DATES FOR NEW SESSION

23rd January

5th March

30th April

11th June