# MINUTE OF MEETING OF LAIRDSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

**LOCATION: VIA MS TEAMS**

**DATE: TUESDAY 30th APRIL 2024**

**TIME: 6.00PM**

**MATTERS ARISING / MINUTE OF LAST MEETING**

The minute of the last meeting was agreed and all actions completed.

**HEAD TEACHER’S REPORT**

School roll is now 314, a reduction of one since the last meeting. There are a couple of staffing changes to note. Mrs Paterson will be finishing up on Friday 31st May to begin her maternity leave so we will be recruiting for an acting PT. Miss Fleming got married over the weekend and is now Mrs Reid. All PEF funded staffing will end on 31st May.

The staff have been taking part in a lot of self evaluation and have identified areas for development around reading and the circle tool kit.

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2024/25**

A questionnaire will be issued to parents for school improvement priorities and their views on how to spend PEF money (which is thought will be approximately £12k from August to April).

**EARLY YEARS CENTRE**

The EYC roll is now 123 with 16 children in the 2-3 room and 107 children in the 3-5 room.

There are currently a number of posts being recruited for in the nursery, including a 30 hour post, a support worker post and two 35 hour maternity cover posts.

**SCHOOL LIFE / PLANNED EVENTS**

Miss Quail has been running the Families Connect programme within the school and this is now being rolled out in the Early Years Centre with her support.

We have been fortunate to secure an opportunity for our Primary 6 children to work with the Creative Sparks team to prepare a display piece for the Kirkintilloch Gala parade. This display will focus on sustainability and so we will be sending out a communication this week to parents and carers for donations of recyclables, including plastic bottles, milk cartons, cardboard cereal boxes and shoe boxes.

Our P5 and P5/6 classes have recently taken part in a climate ready class based workshop. The children engaged very well with this.

Our recycling centre in the school playground is now up and running thanks to Mrs Rooke and the Eco Committee.

The PTA held their fun run after the Easter break and this was very well received by the children.

Family cookery sessions with Miss Quail began last week at St Ninian’s and the first session went really well.

Beat buddies are back in school this term to work with our Primary 4s.

There are a number of events planned for between now and the end of term, some of which will require parental involvement. Key dates for the diary include:

* Health & Wellbeing week – w/c 3rd June
* Sports Day – Friday 7th June
* P1-3 summer outing (Briarlands Farm) – Monday 10th June
* P4-5 summer outing (Edinburgh Zoo) – Tuesday 11th June
* P6-7 summer outing (Time Capsule) – Thursday 13th June
* P7 Graduation Assembly – Friday 14th June (proposed date)
* Reports to parents should be issued late May/early June (exact date to be confirmed)

**COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY**

A questionnaire regarding the cost of the school day was sent to the parent community and of the 71 responses that were received, the split across all year groups was very good. As such it is believed that the results would provide a high level of statistical significance and so forms a valuable piece of evidence to listen to and take action where needed. The results of this survey can be found in the newsletter for this term.

Some of the main themes to emerge from the survey, and suggestions as to how the various issues could perhaps be addressed, were discussed in detail by the parent council and are summarised below:

**All of the supports that are available to families within the school are still not widely known throughout the parent community**.

**\*\*ACTION POINT\*\* MG to finalise the Lairdsland position statement and send to NR for comment**

**There is still perhaps a stigma attached to receiving support**

How do we put this into everyday conversation and reduce the stigma around it?

**The additional cost of school trips was highlighted as an added stress for a lot of families**

Although the PTA currently help to subsidise the cost of these trips by paying for the buses, this is enjoyed across the board by everyone. Is there a way to target the support more to the people who really need it? NR asked if we could consider the wording of groupcall emails when communicating about things like trips to ensure that we make it clear that help is/could be available.

**\*\*ACTION POINT\*\* School will action this regarding the wording of emails**

**PTA fundraising events can cause added anxiety whereby parents feel an obligation to engage with these events but can’t afford it.**

At the moment the PTA try to assist with this as much as they can but this is done more on an adhoc/ word of mouth basis - there is no formal channel of communication. For example, if they aware that someone is struggling to pay for a film night or to go to a disco, they will be told the child can still come. How do we make this accessible to anyone who needs help? EA suggested perhaps using a QR code system similar to those used in other schools. QR codes would be displayed within the school grounds and when the code is scanned, that takes you to a form to fill out about the relevant support.

**\*\*ACTION POINT\*\* MG to look at how we can build this into the framework of when we are considering things within the school, and consider how we develop direct responses to some of the specific examples noted above.**

**CHAIR’S REPORT**

Nothing specific to report.

**FINAL MEETING DATE FOR THIS SESSION**

11th June