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MINUTE OF MEETING OF LAIRDSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

LOCATION: VIA MS TEAMS

DATE: TUESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2024

TIME: 6.00PM (VIA TEAMS)

ATTENDANCE

Libby Bradford, Maria Kerr, Nigel Rooke, Kirsty McEwen, Andrew Mawston, Ruzooka Rwakishasha, Deniz Uster-Harrup, Fraser Gallacher, Hannah Topalian-Lobban, Katie Edwards

APOLOGIES

Emma Alkirwi, Sravan Vadaga, and Maggie Noszczyk-McLean

INTRODUCTIONS

Everyone introduced themselves. NR welcomed everyone to the start of a new school year and explained a little about the format and purpose of the PC. He reminded everyone that the PC should be for representing general feedback from parents and not for raising issues relating to specific individuals. He also emphasised that the meetings aimed to be informal and conversational, and people's active participation would assist that.

****ACTION POINT****

It was agreed to circulate names and email addresses of PC members to this group. (Attached at end of minute.)

MATTERS ARISING / MINUTE OF LAST MEETING

The minute of the last meeting was agreed. All actions progressed. Outstanding action

Cost of the School Day

Comments now been received and agreed. Suggested change of wording to 'supported by the PTA' as Kelly Quail would still be the first point of contact for this.

****ACTION POINT****

LB to circulate position statement to all parents.

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

New School Year

Children settled well into new classes and routines. 40 new Primary 1 pupils. 301 pupils in total. Staffing – Libby Bradford Acting Head Teacher, Maria Kerr currently Depute HT full time. Mon-Tues Kirsty Henderson Principal Teacher (covering Natalie Duffy mat leave) Wed-Fri Kirsty Greer Principal Teacher (covering Jill Paterson mat leave)

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Maria was successful at interview for the DHT post funded by PEF and this will commence once the new Head Teacher starts and we all go back to our substantive posts.
Ali Barber Nurture Teacher Mon-Thurs supported by Kelly Quail our Family Learning Assistant.
Currently carrying out assessments and observations to inform who will attend nurture class this session.

School Improvement Plan priorities are Reading, CIRCLE Framework and UNCRC. The Circle Frameworks is being led by Maria Kerr. Maria introduced the inclusive framework and described how she had led training on the CIRCLE framework for all staff and our first staff meeting centred around staff carrying out an 'Inclusive Scale' audit of our current physical environment, social environment and structures and routines. We will collate the results and form a whole school action plan.

This well received by the Parent Council and a number of supportive comments were made.

****ACTION POINT****

LB to circulate link to School Improvement Plan to all parents. NR/KE offered support to help design a simplified version based on last years. LB to action.

Reading audit to be carried out by staff to inform staff training session this month. Lairdsland has also been chosen to be part of a pilot Education Scotland programme looking at developing reading in the early years so we will work with Yvonne from the nursery on this. Led by Kirsty Henderson.

UNCRC – we currently have our bronze award and we are looking to achieve our silver award this session. Led by Kirsty Greer and Nicola Nellany

Standards and Quality Report 23-24 – in its final stages and will be uploaded to the website as soon as it has been finalised.

Early Years Centre

15 children in 2-3 room. 67 children in 3-5 room.

Care Inspectorate report – Will be uploaded to website. The report has informed the improvement planning for the nursery.

How good is our care, play and learning? 4 – Good

How good is our setting? 4 - Good

How good is our leadership? 4 - Good

How good is our staff team? 3 – Adequate

****ACTION POINT****

LB to circulate full report to PC.

Parental engagement and involvement

Curriculum Evening/Parents Evening/P1 Stay and Play sessions/Maths Workshops, family cooking sessions.

Plans ahead for this session – Each stage will have one parent assembly Nativity, Harvest, Scottish Assembly, Graduation.

Communication went out to parents to invite them to support/be involved in school life through:
P6 and P7 Weekly After School Football Training
P6 and P7 Weekly After School Netball Training
Extra-Curricular Clubs

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Committees – Eco, UNCRC, JRSO, Sports Committee

Join PTA

However, only 6 responses so far. 3 were to help at PTA events, one to continue football coaching, one to promote STEM in school through their company outreach programme, and one for the Eco Committee.

There was some discussion around parental engagement and how the PC could further support. It was felt that some of the opportunities could be too large a commitment and offering shorter, more flexible opportunities may help. NR outlined that the PC had previously (and would continue) to champion parental engagement, and that prior to Covid this was very successful. Covid stopped all of this and it was only last year that things started to return, although the school was also focussed on continuing to reduce other social and emotional gaps still seen from Covid.

****ACTION POINTS****

NR to look and see what previous communications have been issued which may assist uptake. HTL discussed potential idea for one of session in the school. This should be discussed direct with school. Others were considering other opportunities.

P7 Residential to Barcaple in November, some information has been sent out to parents already. Barcaple are now able to offer the residential much cheaper than Ardentinnny so the week will be trialled this year and reviewed.

Question was raised why payment had to be by cheque or cash, could BACS transfer be utilised.

****ACTION POINT****

LB to clarify with school office if this could be possible.

Bikeability planned for late October and November.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Head Teachers position

NR outlined that he had had 3 conversations with Greg Bremner about a more permanent solution to the Head Teacher position as Libby had indicated this was only feasible for her in the short term. The situation remains ongoing and he was hoping a conclusion would be reached in the next week or so. A further update would be received next week. Any conclusion will be communicated to the school asap.

Minutes of Meeting

We currently have no clerk for the PC. NR again asked if anyone was interested to please volunteer. LB outlined there is a small payment in the school budget for this. NR agreed that he would minute this meeting with LB providing a written update to be inserted, so hopefully minutes going forward would mainly be tracking the actions.

****ACTION POINT****

It was agreed that with only 6 remaining minutes people could volunteer to do one each. Everyone was asked to consider if they could do a minute of the meeting. DUH tentatively volunteered for the next meeting, notwithstanding other commitments.

Topics for Future Meetings

NR asked that all topics for future discussion were notified in advance of the meeting.

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AGM

LB conducted the AGM. There have been no other volunteers for Chair or Vice-Chair so it was agreed that these would continue as is given agreement from incumbent postholders.

Chair – Nigel Rooke

Vice-Chair – Sandra McEntee

AOCB

KE queried what the actions of PC members should be collate opinions of wider school. NR outlined various things have been tried over the years but no formal expectation is required. Given representation across the years it was expected that PC member come representing issues they are aware of if these are not already known to the school management. Again, it was emphasised that these should be general issues not ones relating to individuals.

NR closed the meeting, thanking everyone for their participation.

MEETING DATES FOR 2024-2025

29th October (further 4 dates to be agreed for rest of year)

10th December

PC CONTACT DETAILS

NAME	E-MAIL ADDRESS	POSITION HELD
Vacancy	TBA	Clerk
Nigel Rooke	rooke.nigel@gmail.com	Chair
Sandra McEntee	Sandramcentee1@gmail.com	Vice Chair
Emma Alkirwi	emma.alkirwi@yahoo.co.uk	Parent Member
Deniz Uster-Harrup	denizuster@gmail.com	Parent Member
Maggie Noszczyk-McLean	margaret_noszczyk@yahoo.co.uk	Parent Member
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Elizabeth Bradford	emathieson@lairdsland.e-dunbarton.sch.uk	Staff Member
Maria Kerr	mkerr@lairdsland.e-dunbarton.sch.uk	Staff Member

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