

Minute of Meeting of Lairdsland Primary School Parent Council

Location: MS Teams

Date: 20th May 2025, 6pm

Present: Lesley Davidson, Libby Bradford, Katie Edwards, Fraser Gallacher, Nigel Rooke, Ruzooka Rwakishasha, Kirsty McEwen, Emma Alkirwi

Apologies from Deniz Uster-Harrup, Maggie Noszczyk-McLean, Sravan Vadaga, Hannah Topalian-Lobban, Andrew Mawston

Introductions

Meeting started slightly late due to technical issues – NR welcomed all to meeting.

Matters Arising/Minute of Last Meeting

NR acknowledges minutes of previous PC meeting which others agree is accurate.

Actions from previous meeting:

- NR emailed Greg Bremner to ask if PC funding could be used toward school library. NR confirmed this was given go ahead and LD confirmed money has now been spent on reading books.
- Behavioural sanctions and group calls regarding behaviour.
 - Question over whether this has been tweaked based in previous discussion – LD confirmed it has been left as is for now and group call has not had to be used for this reason yet.
 - KE felt when reading policy it was not clear when sanction would be used
 - LD explained sanctions are not punitive and would involve a 10-minute conversation with a member of SLT and a letter sent home to advise this has happened. This conversation would take place during break/lunch, depending on when behaviour took place. Examples of hitting, inappropriate language or continuous behaviour with class teacher which may be escalated to SLT.
 - LD can ask staff to tweak wording if necessary to make clear but made clear there are no punishments, just conversations.

General Report from LD /Agenda items

- **Staffing**
 - Currently a number of staff absences, including 2 within SLT. These are longer-term and mean senior staff are spread thin at the moment.
 - Changes to PEF funding means MK will go back to class teacher 3 days per week (PEF was funding 3 day depute role but not sustainable)
 - One mat leave within school, was supposed to be covered by MK and KG but both are absent so supply teacher being used for this
 - LB working some Thursdays and Fridays to cover absences
 - Biggest impact of this will be SLT availability to speak to parents/be at gate, lunch cover etc
 - If parents need to speak to someone, it might not be same day during this time and could be up to 5 days (unless emergency).

- NR asked about the email going out stating 5 days and if there is an issue with it. LD responded that the email is standard across authority. They are prioritised in terms of urgency and usually respond within 24 hours but not always possible with current situation.

- **Communication with School**

- EA has received comment from parent re automatic reply email regarding 5 days coming across as 'cold' - LD reiterated this is standard response but agreed to look at tweaking wording
- LD commented that some parents want to go direct to class teachers but that all communication must come through office and ultimately SLT for various reasons -SLT need to know what is going on in school. Some parents contact outwith hours and teachers are entitled to time away from work
- EA asked if would be advantageous for parents to have class teacher emails for smaller things to relieve pressure on office and teachers are instructed not to reply outwith hours.
- LD responded that communication policy standard across the authority and it communication should go through office for protection of staff and for misinformation. Eg some class teachers may not be trained or have knowledge in certain areas which puts them in a position of vulnerability.
- RR commented going through office seems to work well and they are obviously triaging in some way

- **Classes next year**

- LD – there will be 12 classes next year , no real detail as yet
- 2x P1 classes in double bay
- There will be composites – currently looking at this and will be communicated in June (Won't know if 1 or 2 probationers until 1st week in June)
- NR asked about accommodation issues – LD responded there are 11 class bays, therefore one class in in open area
- LD explains that though this is not ideal, there is no other option as no other space. School can fit 12 classes but getting very close to capacity so have had to be very firm re placing requests etc this year
- KE expressed concern at this – LB confirmed there have been 12 classes past 5/6 years and has worked well. The open space has been moved further up corridor.

- **School Improvement Plan**

- LD explained next year will be focused on literacy, with a new reading scheme introduced as well as phonics and spelling (further developing what has already been achieved)
- Also focus on The Circle (classroom environments)
- These will be 2 main priorities

- **League Tables**

- Attainment visit from QIO this week
- LD thinks performance was much better last year than what has been recorded but difficult to know why. Perhaps changes in SLT and communication issues
- From info LD has, much closer to comparative schools than league table would suggest
- Looking at P1, P4 and P7 attainment (as is standard), it looks higher than reported last year (probably not an accurate assessment of Lairdsland that was submitted)
- KE asked how attainment is assessed

- LD responded combination of NSAs (national benchmarking tests) in P1, 4 and 7 in literacy and numeracy, as well as professional judgment.
- Teacher judgment is moderated by stage partner or comparative schools
- Not judged through one lens but taking multiple factors into consideration
- LB noted league tables are not always fair when comparing different variables year on year, varying abilities and ASN etc
- LD commented that the quality of teaching and learning she has witnessed since stepping into role has been of a very high standard. She is very confident in the data that will be submitted in June and that the QIO will also be happy with this.

- **School Lunches**

- General consensus that children are happy with menu at the moment
- LD confirmed menu will change after summer based on feedback from children across authority - likely to include hot roll options

- **Parents Evening**

- NR asked for feedback on last parent's evening and move to new layout in hall
- EA said some parents felt like they had no privacy and that she wasn't aware she could see work in classroom so others likely felt similarly
- LB commented that staff prefer new way and SLT had received no comments from parents
- LD said staff requested this due to the time limits, people tend to go over in classroom environment so this way is easier to manage time
- NR asked if privacy could be offered in a different setting if something sensitive – LB responded SLT always available for this
- NR suggested communicating options to parents regarding this going forward

- **AOB**

- KE wanted to revisit the use of corridor space as was uncomfortable with this arrangement if being used for upper school
- LD clarified this space would be used for those above P1 but definitely not for P7s - this depends on classroom spread. Only other reason for using this space for upper school would be for those children upstairs who might not be able to leave building quickly in emergency (due to neurodiversity etc) and this space might be used for older children in this situation
- KE asked if this has been brought up with EDC longer term
- LD has raised this at a higher level around projected figures for forthcoming years
- There are 48 new P1s and LD has pushed back on taking any more but that this is being considered longer term

Actions:

- LD to tweak wording of automatic response to parent emails and restorative behaviour communication to make clearer for parents

Meeting Dates for next session

NR has set provisional date of 9th September for first meeting of new school session.

If any gaps in PC, spaces will be advertised

NR asked if school office could facilitate the membership of PC and this was agreed