

## **Minute of Meeting of Lairdsland Primary School Parent Council**

**Location: MS Teams**

**Date: 11 March 2025, 6pm**

Present: Lesley Davidson, Maria Kerr, Kirsty Greer, Libby Bradford, Katie Edwards, Fraser Gallacher, Nigel Rooke, Hannah Topalian-Lobban, Andrew Mawston

Apologies from Deniz Uster-Harrup, Maggie Noszczyk-McLean, Ruzooka Rwakishasha, Kirsty McEwen, Emma Alkirwi, Sravan Vadaga

### **Introductions**

NR welcomed everyone to the meeting, advising of apologies as above and welcoming KG to join discussion re Parental Engagement.

### **Matters Arising/Minute of Last Meeting**

NR acknowledges minutes of previous PC meeting including discussion of School Improvement Plan, confirming that any actions were completed. NR lists the agenda to be discussed;

- Parental Involvement 2024/25
- Lunchtime activities
- Parent Council Funding
- Composite Classes
- AOCB

### **Parental Engagement & Lunchtime Activities**

NR introduced the topic of expanding parental engagement at Lairdsland and how we might do this.

KG explains that parental engagement is an umbrella term, highlighting the strong existing parental involvement in many areas; encouraging learning, assisting with homework, ensuring punctuality, volunteering, helping on trips. The school and other agencies also support basic parental engagement.

KG emphasised the variety of opportunities that parental engagement helps create for the children; large community events; church services, whole school library visits, football and netball teams who take part in competitions with Lenzie Academy, science centre projects 'Clyde in the Classroom', reading to nursery children.

KG spoke about the time and effort from PTA to help run events (ie discos, laps to Lapland) and fundraising for resources (ie swimming lessons, buses, See Saw, and a brand new speaker), emphasising that parental engagement here is crucial to support PTA.

KG outlined that parental engagement is already high, however other opportunities for smaller events for 2025/26 session are welcome while being mindful of parent's other commitments.

NR agrees that the breadth of engagement is strong.

KE explains parents are unsure what value they can offer and their concern re handling a classroom while sharing their skills. KG assures that school staff would help to support this, assuming the parent has created a session acceptable for age and stage of children.

NR suggests that a document defining Parental Engagement would help school staff advise parents on how they can help and get involved.

**\*\*ACTION POINT\*\***

- KG to circulate a call-out to parents at beginning of 2025/26 academic year for one-off sessions
- NG will draft a position statement defining Parental Engagement and share with staff for next PC meeting.

**School Report & Budget**

NR introduces topic of school budget and funding and asks if we can have regular updates for this. LD states that budget is tight across the board, as this is the end of financial year and price of resources has increased. LD also highlights that special spends are required for some funding.

NR asks if PC funding of approx £650/700 can be donated to the school for library reading resources? LD agrees and recommends we email Greg Bremner to request a Special Spend to use PC funding towards these other resources.

**\*\*ACTION POINT\*\***

NR to email Greg Bremner to authorise the PC funding as a special spend for library resources for the school.

**Lairdsland's Positive Behavioural Policy**

LD states there is no significant change to restorative approach already adopted at Lairdsland, rather we are being clearer across school community about what communication looks like throughout school community, including parents.

LD emphasised that class newsletters are useful for parents from an operational aspect (reminding of PE days), and what topics are being explored in class. NR agrees and states that these newsletters help to manage parental expectation. MK confirms class newsletters will now resume.

LD explained how positive behaviour policy looks across school community: children recognising expectations around values, making parents/guardians aware of this, how/when

behaviours are reported to SLT and the action following that. Children may spend 5 mins of playtime having restorative chat with SLT with a form of approx 4 questions, exploring how their actions made others feel. A document is sent home for parents to sign, SLT signs too.

FG asks if restorative approach is replacing anything? LD confirms only new aspect will be introduction of a specific script for staff, and the note to go back to parents to encourage further restorative conversations. MK will chat about positive relationships and behavioural policy as school assembly this Friday 14th March.

KE asks what/how sanctions are used. LD explains sanctions are rarely used and only for children who continually struggle to understand how their behaviour affects others, emphasising the value of restorative conversations. KE asks if we can make sanctions section in policy document clearer? LD agrees this can be tweaked if necessary.

AM concerned about behavioural forms for parents getting lost in school bags, suggesting a group call might be useful? LD agrees.

NR concerned that restorative behavioural policy may exclude other children ie neurodiverse. LD assures that staff are very skilled and always support in a helpful way, emphasising importance of teaching parameters to all children in the classroom.

#### **\*\*ACTION POINT\*\***

- LD to review sanctions section in behavioural policy document and tweak if necessary.
- LD to introduce group calls for parents to be alerted about behaviour and restorative form going home in school bag.

#### **LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES**

NR suggests introducing lunchtime activities, as unstructured time is challenging for some children. LD mentions CIRCLE framework, inclusive for all needs of all children ie quiet outdoor areas for children are helpful.

MK will announce at assembly Friday 14th March the introduction of new Lairdsland playground zones in balcony areas; Reading zone (beanbags, chair and books), Creative zone (draw/colour/loom bands), a speaker bought by PTA will be used once per week in playground to play music, children can sing and dance.

#### **Composite classes**

KE queried principles regarding how Lairdsland decides on composite classes, and if EDC decide class structures or teachers? LD explains EDC guidelines are based on working and friendship. Staff get together, discuss working/friendship groups, recognising any parental concern and applying that. Pupil-intake informs how classes are physically split across the school.

## **Chairs Report/future agenda items**

### **Lunch quality**

HTL shares parents' concerns re school lunch food quality and many children now refusing to eat it. LD explains this is an EDC issue as new restrictive guidelines around salt/sugar were introduced in October 2024. There is a menu change scheduled at Easter holidays which will hopefully be more appealing to the children.

#### **\*\*ACTION POINT\*\***

Parent Council to catch up on new menu food quality at next meeting, discussing if new menu shows improvement.

### **One-off Sessions**

HTL asks if LD can create spreadsheet for Lairdsland with all clubs that children in school attend, as may give a steer as to what one-off sessions would be useful for parental engagement. LD is happy to initiate this for academic session 2025/26

#### **\*\*ACTION POINT\*\***

LD circulate email to parents beginning of 2025/26 session asking for pupil's interests and clubs attended in/out of school, then create a spreadsheet with this info.

### **AOCB**

### **Primary School League Charts**

HTL highlights Lairdsland's drop in primary school leagues charts, from rank 256 in 2022 to rank 1057 in 2024, and asks what has caused this drop in school attainment. NR suggests stats are rounded up or down and this might inform the drop.

#### **\*\*ACTION POINT\*\***

Parent Council will discuss at next meeting.

### **Meeting Dates for 2024-25**

PC unanimously agreed to combine the two remaining PC meetings, originally 6th May and 10th June. New and final meeting date:

20th May