

Parent Council

Meeting Date: 17/03/2026 via Teams

Present: Nigel Rooke (Chair), Lesley Davidson (Interim Head Teacher), Libby Bradford (Deputy Head Teacher), Katie Edwards, Andrew Mawston, Janet Jamieson, Mhairi Sermanni, Rebecca Houston, Emma Alkirwi, Sravan Vaelaga, Fraser Gallacher

Apologies: Deniz Uster-Harrup, Kerry Simpson

Matters Arising/Minute of last meeting

- Request made for more PVG volunteers in school newsletter.
- School opening times highlighted in school newsletter.
- LD has been in touch with transport re the issue of children not being escorted into school from the bus including crossing the road. It appears there has been a change of driver and dispute around whether the driver is responsible for this. LD continuing to progress with the bus company.

Head Teacher's report

Overall, the school is settled just now. Intervention groups have been working well. Good attainment levels for those targeted. Example of the Reading Recovery Programme. Mrs Lang is trained in this and has been working with 4 children. She has another year of training following which she will be able to train other staff to widen the reach of this programme. This is funded by PEF.

IT equipment is being updated on a phased basis, however there is a limit on the purchase of equipment due to resources. Wifi can be a challenge due to number of devices connected. Currently printers are being replaced to be followed by electronic whiteboards and then laptops. LD advised in other areas parents have contributed additional funding to purchase extra laptops but this is not always possible and so within Lairdsland, funding comes from the school budget and there is only provision for a set number.

KE said it is helpful to understand how equipment is funded, and asked if there are guidelines on the provision of laptops. LD advised the council will replace existing equipment in line with current provision, but it is difficult to provide any additional from the existing school budget. In some schools the PTA have funded additional equipment, and EA asked whether parents can look into workplace schemes/initiatives that could raise funds for equipment, as this has happened in other areas. LD to check if this can be added to the school newsletter.

AM asked about Connected Scotland funding post covid, but it is unclear how this was spent in EDC. NR summarised that there are various ideas and suggestions as to raising additional funds, but the main point to highlight is a willingness for the parent council to help in any way we can. LD to advise if there is anything further the parent council can do to support this.

KE asked whether parents/children can contribute books to the school library. LD advised that novels in good condition are welcome to be added to the library. LD to highlight in school newsletter.

Brian Donnelly continues his work with classes and individual families. He has made a suggestion to reduce the number of shared values to make these clearer to everyone. Questionnaire to be circulated to staff and children to progress this.

Brian ran parental sessions in February. Disappointing turnout with only one parent attending the evening session and around 10 attending an afternoon session. The focus was on social media/mobile phones. KE and RH attended and provided positive feedback. LD is concerned about this level of engagement for the size of the school.

AM shared concern re whatsapp/social media, and encouraged Brian to keep offering sessions if possible. MS agreed and asked if sessions could be promoted on seesaw as emails can be overlooked. NR asked if Brian could perhaps post a video to seesaw which informs of the work he is doing. EA asked if he could run a session on teams as this may be more accessible. LD to look into these suggestions.

There is ongoing concern re the low number of PVG applications and summer trips may not go ahead due to this. LB checked and confirmed 49 applications are registered with 14 still to be completed. MS asked if other family members like grandparents can register. LD advised yes and will add this to the school newsletter.

EA asked if it's possible to break down by year group to know how many parents for each group have completed PVG check. LD will check this, but realistically it is too late to book now and bus prices are also prohibitive. AM wondered if smaller group outings may be more manageable. LD advised they are looking at all possibilities and the pros and cons of each. SV questioned if there may be an issue with the PVG process as some parents report not receiving confirmation following application so it may be that they've missed a step. RH suggested promoting this again to new P1 parents, and also acknowledged that the process is not always straightforward which can put people off. EA volunteered to develop communication to be circulated via the school.

LD raised concern about the ways in which some parents have spoken to staff including office staff and class teachers, with an increase in instances of verbal aggression. Communication is to be sent to all parents regarding this. The parent council is supportive of the staff with comments that they are always noted to be friendly and approachable, so any unacceptable behaviour from parents is condemned.

Actions

- LD to highlight in school newsletter that novels in good condition can be donated to school library.
- Parents to consider whether there are schemes/initiatives that could contribute towards additional funding for IT equipment. LD to look into whether this can be highlighted in school newsletter.
- LD to discuss with Brian Donnelly about promotion of his work with children and parents. E.g. See Saw video, MS Teams session.

- EA to develop communication to be circulated regarding the need for volunteers/PVG applications.
- LD to check with Mrs Patterson re incomplete applications due to possible issues with process.
- LD to highlight that grandparents/relatives can apply to PVG scheme.
- NR to discuss incomplete applications with Mrs Paterson and whether this could be due to an issue with the process.

Date of next meeting – 26th May – potentially at St Ninians subject to let availability.