

MINUTES



Date: Monday 14th February 2022
Location: Teams
Time: 6.30pm
Subject: Parent Council Meeting

In attendance:

Staff:	Sheona Allen (HT) Jill Donald	Hilary Roddick	Lorraine Donnelly
Parents:	Jennifer Schofield (Chair)	Jill Penman (Vice Chair)	Angela McGhee (Clerk)
	Emma Henderson Louise Thompson Risha Davda Joyce Thomson Heather Murray	Nicola Scott Maureen Matheson Josyln Currie Emma Donaldson	Susan Tate Justine Currie Jill Penman Karen McBride
	Susan McMillan		

1. Welcome & Minutes from Previous Meeting

Jennifer Schofield, Chair, welcomed all. Asked if everyone had read through the minutes sent and as per PC guidelines, asked for two witnesses to confirm they were accurate – Jennifer and Maureen Matheson attested to this.

2. Head Teachers Report

Another extremely busy month few months! We have been hit hard with staff absences, particularly in the last 5 weeks but staff have been amazing. SMT and other support staff have been in class helping out and children have been incredible too.

SIP

1: Inter Disciplinary Learning – another block planned in the coming weeks – update at the next meeting

2: Reading – HR advised there is a real reading culture within the school now and she is hearing lots of book conversations from pupils and so much enthusiasm for reading. Standardised

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assessments are showing the positive impact - children are more confident in reading and talking about what they are reading. Lots of exciting events planned for World Book Day which is the first week in March.

3: Language and Communication

On the In Service day staff were working on a sensory toolkit – a resource to use with some children who may find communicating tricky. We are looking at the environment in all classrooms to make sure that they are easy to navigate, and signage is consistent throughout the school.

P4-7 continue to work on reading skills

P1-3 working on outdoor learning, play environment and ability to navigate the areas for all children

Pupil Leadership

In addition to the House Captains and Junior House Captain, the school has various enthusiastic and active pupil committees.

The Learning Committee has been consulting on the playground – what can be introduced and they have been buying a lot of new equipment and then filming the use of them.

Digital Leaders have been doing a phenomenal job. Mrs Donald and Miss Tani have been helping to support everything they are doing and commended them on what a successful and enthusiastic bunch they are! They have been working on creating digital hub which successfully helped children who had been struggling with accessing bug club. They are currently working on helping with P1 transitions and how to access the info they'll need using thing links etc.

The Library Committee has been working with the Digital Leaders – sharing information, reviewing books and using QR codes to find books.

P5 reading buddies had been stalled temporarily so this will be restarting again.

P7 children have been recruited to become Junior Playground Assistants to help with P1. P7 will be playing and encouraging, helping to mediate and showing them how to be responsible with resources.

Lesley Gordon is also now in the process of starting an Active Health Committee

Upcoming events

In the next few weeks, parents will be invited to book teacher meetings which will be by video call.

These are easiest to book via the Parent's Portal but an email with full instructions on how to book and what to expect will be provided.

Comic Relief is being organised by the House Captains – more information will follow.

P7 update

LD advised that there are multiple events planned in the coming weeks and months for the P7 transition. The P7 classes watched the Lenzie Academy virtual open day which generated lots of questions they were able to ask Mr Farquhar, head of S1 at Lenzie Academy, when they met with him last week. Mr Farquhar is planning to set up a P7 transition group on Teams and pupils will be able to send in questions to teachers. LD will be sending further information out to P7 parents shortly to advise of the calendar of activities & events planned which will hopefully include a two-day visit in June.

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School lunches

HT advised there has been a huge increase in the number of children having lunches in P4 & P5. There are currently two sittings for lunch and break time has been increased to 20 minutes. Covid has affected catering staff although children are not queuing for as long as they might claim – it has been timed and is a maximum of 10 minutes at most. Going forward it is going to become even busier when all children are entitled to school meals so EDC has been approached to provide another service station and the SMT are looking at any and all strategies to try and improve how lunchtimes are managed.

Questions asked about children not getting what they ordered when they collect their lunches

HT said that this should not be happening as kitchen should never run out of things but also likely that children might just have changed their mind about what they want to eat!

Karen McBride suggested that some children start their lunch break outside and then come in to eat on the second half

HT concern about this is that there will be children who will just stay outside playing and they do not have resources to search for children and ensure they are coming in at the correct time. We do have enough tables for each sitting and obtaining any more would cause problems with storing them. We need to make the whole lunchtime process work more efficiently and will continue to try different approaches and work on this.

School Trips

As restrictions are finally beginning to ease Trips are back! P7's are going to Lockerbie, P5's are going swimming at the Leisure centre and the younger year groups have been going out on Moss walks regularly. P4 have a trip to Vikingar planned for March and Primary 6 are planning a trip for Term 4 too.

P1 Transition/ Nursery Update

Still waiting on EDC guidelines as to what transition wise we can offer. Likely that we will be allowed to have children in for visits but unsure if parents will be. We will update when we have further guidance.

Claire Moore from the Nursery has advised that the children have been focussing on Space and they are totally engaged and excited by it. Parents are encouraged to ask their children about it. Parent Calls will be made in the coming weeks.

The plan is still to have a separated Nursery forum but there have been a lot of staff changes and it's been a busy few months but it is in the pipeline.

Louise Thomson asked if clothes are going to continue to be hung outside the Nursery or will the cloakroom be in use again

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HT said she will find out and get back to her.

Improving the way Minutes are communicated to the PC and parent body

Chair notes that several items raised to be discussed at this meeting had previously been raised. Conversation had previously been had between clerk and Chair regarding this as procedures dictate that previous meeting minutes should only be made public once they have been approved by 2 Council members at the next meeting. This means that the parent body are not able to read these minutes for at least 4 weeks from when they may have raised a query. Class Reps job is to feedback to parents but we agreed that it would be better to have a consistent message to parents so this would be better coming from one source. Resolution is that Clerk will send the minutes on to the HT and Chair to check and once they have okayed these will be sent to the rest of the Parent Council for approval from a minimum of two members. The aim will be to have minutes available to within 7-10 days of the meeting.

Feedback from members is that parents will not necessarily think to check the School Website to read minutes but there were multiple good suggestions on how to circulate the minutes in a more effective way. Going forward the minutes will be added to the school website as standard, but also sent with a link via Groupcall and posted on the Facebook pages.

Chair advised that the constitution will be updated to reflect the changes to approving meeting minutes.

3. Parent Body Items

Football

Chair explains that this has been brought to the Council again as there have been comments posted online and communication with the HT from some parents about why this is “banned” in school so it was agreed to discuss again.

Susan McMillan came along to talk to the Council and explained that, although the PC might have been happy with how and why football was not widely played currently, this view was not reflected by many parents and they have the right to reply. Susan said that parents hadn't been aware that football was banned and that the school needed to look at it again as she doesn't think the School is aware of the strength of feeling about children being allowed to play.

HT explained that football was never banned but that over the last few years, due to bubbles and social distancing, it was removed as a playground activity but that they are slowly starting to reintroduce it now that limitations are easing. HT has already been engaging with children about this and the Learning Committee are carrying out a pupil consultation to ensure that the needs of all the children are being considered. P6 have already been playing football on their space on the MUGA and football clubs have been happening after school for the last few months. Comments were made about other schools having an actual school team so a plea was made for parents to volunteer to

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create afterschool clubs as this is the only way these things can go ahead if there are no staff available or able to run one.

The conversation about football dominated the meeting for at least 40 minutes until the Chair decided that the best thing to do was set up a sub-committee as there was no quick resolution to this.

Emma Henderson requested that the sub group include parents whose children are not interested in playing football at all to ensure a balanced approach.

Feedback to Parents

Nicola Scott was approached by some P1 parents who don't feel like they are getting enough feedback

HT explained that coming from a Nursery environment where learning journals and small group sized are prevalent, it can feel like there is a huge difference. Teams is widely used by teachers to share class information and photos and parents will be able to very soon have a face to face online meeting and speak with the class teacher. Parents should encourage children to start sharing their own stuff on teams as teachers love to see what children are doing at home and helps with engagement.

Road Safety

Nicola Scott raises how dangerous Myrtle Avenue is for the children. She asks if there is any dialogue with the council about improving this street?

HT recommends contacting the police if there are cars parked illegally or you witness dangerous driving. Work is still being done on trying to get a path across the Moss but there is not much the school can do about the traffic on Myrtle. Chair will speak to Lenzie Academy Parent Council to see if they are having the same issues. HT said that walk to school week is coming up and we will be looking for volunteers to help with walking buses from different parts of Lenzie.

Miscellaneous

Louise Thompson asks for reminder to be sent to children about the dangers of ice and deep puddles in the Moss following an incident where a child had to be rescued by another parent this week after falling a puddle.

Emma Donaldson notes that the path accessing the school from Blackthorn Avenue has been removed – unsure if this will be reinstated.

Questions raised again about the way homework is given out to children ie too much screen time.

**This has been raised previously and several classes are now using jotters at home also.*

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Changing gym days – P1 parents being told by children that by gym days were changing but this not being communicated by teachers resulting in children wearing gymn kit on the wrong days.

HT advises that this would usually be communicated via Teams but, due to staff working across different classes due to Covid absences, this may not always be happening. However, the children can still do class work in their PE kit and vice versa.

AOCB

Clerk wished to have it noted that the Parent Council is made up of staff and parents who have volunteered to participate but all parents are welcome to attend the meetings. The Parent Council is the best, and most productive way to raise any general questions or concerns that parents may have. Questions can be raised in advance to Class Reps or asked in person at the meeting and minutes of the meeting are available for everyone once they have been checked for accuracy at the next meeting.

JS brought meeting to a close – next meeting Monday 25th April