

AGM MINUTES



Date: Monday 28th November 2022
Location: Teams
Time: 6.30pm
Subject: Parent Council Meeting

In attendance:

Staff:	Sheona Allen (HT) Jill Donald	Lorraine Donnelly	Hilary Roddick
Parents:	Lyndsey Saunders (Chair)	Louise Thompson (Vice Chair)	Angela McGhee (Clerk)
	Nic McColm Louise Thompson Joyce Thomson Rachel Pollock	Emma Donaldson Jennifer McDonald Joslyn Currie Jemma Bell	Emma Henderson Justine Currie Laura Gruber Stephen Gruber
Apologies:	Susan Tate Maureen Matheson		

1. Welcome

Minutes approved from last meeting and accuracy attested by Jennifer McDonald and Emma Henderson.

2. HT Update

Feedback on reporting

Following the last meeting and the feedback gathered from the questionnaire, HT has met with staff and unions regarding the best way to report throughout the year. Teachers have a working time agreement as to how many additional hours are worked over the course of the school year. This equates to 5 additional hours per week which is currently used for meeting and planning (although teachers generally work well over this already and spend a huge amount of time making parent phone calls). Teachers have agreed not to do a written report at the end of term 2 although the children will still produce skills for learning which they work on with the teacher and is sent out to parents. The next parents' night in March time will consist of one online appointment offered and then the next week two in person evenings will be available. Appointment time will increase from 7 minutes to 9 minutes which should alleviate the feedback that there wasn't enough time to discuss everything.

AGM MINUTES



So, going forward the reporting will be:

- Term 1 - Meet the Teacher evening
- Term 2 - 1 online parents evening & 2 in person meetings offered
- Skills for Life written by children with support from class teachers
- Term 3 - 1 online parents evening & 2 in person meetings offered
- Term 4 - Final written reports

Jennifer McDonald thanks Mrs Allen for making the changes to the parent evenings.

Cost of the School Day survey

HT appealing for help to try and get a better response to this survey sent out to parents with the weekly update on Friday 18th November. At the last HT meeting the Scottish Government and EDC advised that they want to get information on the cost of a school day for parents and carers. As a school, LM want to make sure that they are not putting parents under any additional pressure and get feedback on costs involved in a school day including any hidden costs.

So far only 46 responses have been received so HT asking reps to share the link and encourage parents to respond to make sure we are getting a full picture and reach as many parents as possible.

Suggestion from EH re PTA fundraising – other schools ask parents to contribute what they can at the start of the school year e.g £50 and that would save parents being asked throughout the school year.

Staff changes

Mrs Lynch (P1a) will be starting her maternity leave soon and Mrs Lightbody who has just returned from maternity leave will be taking over that class.

In February Mrs McMahon will also be back from maternity leave.

3. Parent Body Items

Cars in the school grounds

Chair is aware that there are issues and knows that reminders are sent to parents regularly about parking and driving in general around the school.

Nic McColm said it is an ongoing issue but school have done loads to try and help. Joyce Thomson notes that when HT stood at the street it definitely deterred people from driving into school grounds although is aware that this is not feasible to be done regularly. Chair will approach Council and see if there is anything that can be done at that level to help or support the school.

Jemma Bell is a new parent to school and feels that there are too many people using nursery drop off for parking and also said that her P5 child is horrified by the unsafe way her peers are behaving on the road. She feels that the school need to do more on road safety.

AGM MINUTES



LD explains that the school already do a huge amount on road safety every year but the onus has to be put back on parents to really hammer this home to their children as there is only so much the school can do. LD will speak to P5 teachers about when the next road safety campaign is and suggests HT adds it to the weekly update again.

Jennifer McDonald walks to school every day and wonders if better signage is required on the road outside the school. Also advised that she is already petitioning the council about the speed of cars on Myrtle Drive as she has done some speed tests and 95% of cars are driving too fast.

HT explains that the area directly outside of the school gates is not school grounds. Also said there had previously been a travel plan in place from when the school was opened but nothing has been said about it for some time. Mrs Donald said that they have road safety conversations with children constantly and encourage the children to have these conversations with their parents too.

HT talks about the walking bus campaign from last year which loads of children took part in and is planned for May again. However, it is difficult to do things like that all the time as LM is a large school.

Chair asks what Parent Council can do to support the school. LD suggests that members of Parent Council could come down in mornings to help manage the school gate with cars – the first Chair at LM did this when the school opened and it did make a difference

Laura Gruber – also a new parent to the school, asked about a drop off zone for parents which is manned by the janitor to manage cars in and out

HT explains this is not feasible as school not built to accommodate a drop off and Janitor is also the lollipop person so unavailable to manage cars in and out. There are a number of children travelling from a distance to the school due to placement requests so there will always be cars around the school. Also, poorer weather will always result in more people driving their children to school.

Following further road safety discussion, LD suggests a homework task for the upper school to make road safety posters. Chair agrees that Parent Council presence in mornings and after school would be good so will try and get something in place asap.

****Parent Council have since organised times throughout December to have a PC presence at the school gates****

P7 homework

Nic McColm raises the issue of P7 homework. Feedback from parents is that it is repetitive, doesn't particularly engage children and there is a lack of any feedback from teachers. This has already been fed into the homework sub-committee. LD is going to talk to P7 teachers and thinks some kind of project based homework could help.

Bug club

Emma Henderson raises that P2 parents are finding bug club challenging and that their children aren't interested. Also, bug club can be difficult to use on a mobile device. Wondering about just sending books home?

Lots of parent council members advise that their children do get a book home.

AGM MINUTES



Jemma Bell said she feels like LM is very tech heavy and too much screen time is required for school activities as opposed to things parents might allow screen time for

Steve Gruber notes that in his line of work he works with people who do not have adequate digital skills and is so impressed at the digital learning available at LM. Also feels like the more they use tech for homework the more they will see it as a basic chore or lose interest.

HT talks about the very talented digital learners in LM who collaborated on a power point unaided and are learning so much tech wise. They are given lots of opportunities to learn and have been using Sway. Schools in East Dunbartonshire were the first faction of the council to have Teams, children were prioritised as their need being greatest. The world is tech focussed so children need to be at the forefront to learn these skills.

Homework Sub-group

Clerk starts by clarifying if sub group is made up solely from PC members or if it has been opened up to the wider parent body – confirmed just PC members.

Need to confirm the purpose of the sub-group and what they are looking to achieve. HT advises that the Homework Policy is on the school website for parents to read over. Also, there is a lot of good information and research on the Education Endowment Foundation website.

HT will be a part of the sub-group and happy to beef up homework but would need to look at what teachers could do less of to offset the increased homework.

By the next parent council meeting, the sub-group should have a draft survey ready to share with the rest of the parent council for feedback and any additions or amendments. All agree that it's important to also get feedback and send any surveys on to teachers and pupils too.

Homework is decided by the school so once we have finished the consultation period and have our findings then we can justify making any relevant changes. Aim would be to have any changes implemented by the start of the new academic year in Aug 2023.

Jemma Bell advises at her last school that they didn't set homework as such but shared experiences that children should do with their families instead and the children would then post photographs or evidence of these activities. Emma Henderson thinks this would put additional pressure on parents.

Jennifer McDonald asks if we could find out how many pupils are actually doing the homework currently which HT confirms we can get numbers of, however, Nic McColm points out that there are children doing the homework but not clicking that they've handed it in or submitting it online so won't be a true reflection of homework engagement.

4. Chair Report

Chair starts by asking PC to read over the Parent Council Constitution sent out to members last month and send feedback directly to her. Also reiterates that we need to encourage other parents to get involved and engage with PC to ensure we are representing the whole parent body.

Chair advises that the agenda for the Parent Council Chair Forum includes the standard of food served in schools and nurture within school environment.

AGM MINUTES



The Mental Health Education Strategy 2021-2024 is aimed predominantly at secondary school children but also P6 & P7 children. Life Link have the EDC contract to provide counselling to children who need it. Children are identified by teachers or SMT or parents/children can request.

Chair said stats have been interesting as the uptake was originally very low but bigger now. Key issues have shown that 41% of children report suffering from anxiety and stress and 10% from low self-esteem. The referral wait time is fairly short for primary school children but longer for secondary school children. Other parent councils weren't aware that these services were available so EDC is trying to be make it more transparent.

HT advises that Life Link work closely with the school and prior to that it was Sparks so the school has been involved with this since the very beginning. Referrals to Life Link can be made at any time unlike Sparks which was termly.

Jennifer McDonald asks if Life Link do class chats and Louise Thomson asks if there has been an assembly so that every child has a base understanding of the service offered/available.

LD advises that all classes do a lot of work on growth mindset already and the wellbeing questionnaire and assessments are already in place. The SMT and teachers work closely to identify which children could benefit from this. If lots of children are identified or parents get in touch, then the service can be expanded.

There are also posters around the school for Life Link and information has been sent to parents previously.

4. AOB

EH asks if there has been a nursery parent council set up yet?

HT advises they are working on it and will find out what is happening.

Meeting brought to a close with next meeting scheduled for Monday 30Th January