

MINUTES



Date: Monday 24th April 2023
Location: Teams
Time: 6.30pm
Subject: Parent Council Meeting

In attendance:

Staff:	Sheona Allen (HT) Jill Donald	Hilary Roddick	Lorraine Donnelly
Parents:	Lyndsey Saunders (Chair)	Lousie Thompson (Vice Chair)	Angela McGhee (Clerk)
	Nic McColm	Jennifer McDonald	Susan Tate
	Louise Thompson	Joslyn Currie	Justine Currie
	Joyce Thomson	Emma Henderson	Gillian Wright

Apologies: Maureen Matheson

1. Welcome & Minutes from Previous Meeting

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 – Louise and Nic attested to this.

2. Head Teachers Report

SIP

1: Major priority is to raise attainment through high quality learning teaching and assessment. Improving our school by working with other schools within the West Partnership which encompasses schools from Glasgow and Ayrshire, specifically it's schools who are already working at a high standard take part.

2 year plan: year 1 is numeracy and year 2 is writing. Lots of webinars and staff discussing practices and characteristics of high performing schools. Focus is on learning intentions and success criteria of highly effective practitioners. Implementing different things in the classrooms and feedback on everything in June. Trio visits are happening with one teacher from P5, 6 & 7 and they are looking at numeracy and encouraged to be highly critical with feedback following lesson observations. This is really good for staff as allows them to offer support and advice to their peers and is being well received. Similar practices are happening in the lower school too.

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2: Use PEF to raise attainment for targeted groups. HR states that the independence and improvement of the children from these groups in the last year is incredible. They can now explain strategy, show working, decode questions, have increased the complexity of problems being posed and their confidence and perseverance has hugely improved. Attainment and tracking all show these improvements. This term they are going to work on step by step word problems and team teaching, use the pupils who have been working with Hilary to help do some of the teaching. This term HR is also planning a maths family fun evening focussing on P4 year group.

3: Communication friendly environment. Support staff have been trialling small test of change, each working with 1 child/group of children to learn Makaton and will be feeding back on this.

CfE

HT advises that more tracking has been done and is delighted that, in all areas, almost all children are at national standard and a lot are exceeding it. Assessments are ongoing in class and SNSA is a great gauge to see where the children are – lots of them are sitting at the top bands. Writing is where they want to go next – it's a difficult area so focus is on the is for next year.

LT asks if the children in P7 who are sitting in the “most” category for writing are receiving help to get them to “almost all”

LD explains that the children who need a bit of additional help have already been identified and are receiving targeted support. HT points out that although it is in the “most” category it is at 86% so very close to almost all. Potentially this could be just one child who is slightly off track

Survey

Only 64 out of 600 parents had so far responded – HT urges PC to encourage parents to complete the school evaluation form.

PEF

HT advises that, as per the last few years, she would like to allocate the PEF money to funding a teacher who can really drill down into raising attainment for PEF children and targeted groups.

JMcD asks how a PEF teacher is advertised, e.g do they specify that a teacher is needed with certain skillsets

HT explains that she approaches the council for an extra teacher and then uses someone currently within the staff who has the specific skills needed for the PEF role.

Chair said that it would be good to see a specific plan as to how the PEF teacher is utilised so that the PC can make an informed decision on the funding use. HT said she will add this to the SIP.

Evaluation

Staff and children will be evaluating what is working and what can be improved and all feedback will be taken on board and worked out how best to put into the SIP.

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School fund

The PTA do all of the fundraising, the school doesn't do any. We do get regular money from a few sources though; we earn commission from Tempest photographs and have a regular small stream of income from the Rag Bag. HT is proposing that now is a good time to take some money out of the school fund to use alongside PTA funds to finally get the outdoor classroom that we have been working towards for the last few years. PTA have committed to a minimum of £10k. School fund monies will also be used to pay for an outdoor reading library.

ST asks if the monies from School fund and PTA take us anywhere close to what we need to pay for the outdoor classroom

HT said that the original quote for was approximately £17k. The plan is to create a hexagonal classroom with a solid floor and a path to join up to the tarmac to avoid walking over the grass.

ST adds that some year groups are not going to see the benefit of this spending despite having contributed to the fundraising over the last few years so it doesn't seem fair.

HT acknowledges that this is the case for the P7 year group but some money will be kept aside for them so that they don't lose out on benefitting from some of the fundraising. The PTA is also paying for the Celebration day on the 19th May which Lesley Gordon has organised.

NM asks about the benefit of the outdoor classroom in comparison to other areas that money could be directed towards such as residential trips. Also mentions that PTA fund raising should surely be spent in the year it's been raised.

HT advises that the outdoor classroom has been in the pipeline for a few years now and the whole school will be able to make use of it.

Clerk adds that there does need to be much more transparency about the PTA funds and spending. There used to be a Rep from PC attending PTA meeting and vice versa, this had fallen away but should be restarted so the two groups can work together in support of the school.

EH said there has been some chat in her P2 class group about the cost of school trips and how it's an annoying amount of money we ask for, is it not possible to just round up to £10 and that's then an easy way to raise some additional funds.

HT said we will always apply the cheapest possible cost for trips and we need to be mindful that not everyone is in the same financial position. Clerk advises that parents can ask to just have the change donated to school fund if they wish.

Merits

We have achieved the Bronze Award for Rights Respecting School - the Learning Committee have been working really hard on this and are now aiming for the Silver Award.

HR is working towards the Reading Schools Core and Silver awards. There is a plan in place with book week, author visits and a staff book club among other events and we are hopeful that we will achieve the Core Award by the end of the year.

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We still have our Digital Leader Award. Fiona Paterson and the Eco Committee are working toward the Silver Award for Eco Schools and Lesley Gordon and the Health Committee are aiming for Gold Award for Active Schools.

EH asks if there is a way for P6/7 children to donate books they have finished with or encourage the swapping of books

HR said the only issue with children bringing in their own books is the quality and diversity. We tend to receive lots of the same books/authors and the aim is to expose children to things they wouldn't normally read. Also, we are currently auditing our school library to ensure it is current and diverse.

JT mentions a lady in Torrance who send books to schools/nurseries in Africa and will send info on to us.

Transitions

P7 - S1 transition visits have already started. S3 mentors have been in to see the classes and there are multiple visits scheduled in addition to the 2 full day induction visits on the 1st & 2nd of June. Enhanced transitions are also in progress for the children who need this additional support. The SLT and P7 teachers are working with Lenzie Academy and will discuss every single child and friendship groups etc.

New P1 – we have 67 confirmed currently and have already had stay and play sessions with the children at Lenzie Meadow nursery. JD has contacted 20+ nurseries to chat about the children coming here and to do the SLA audit. Shortly we will organise transition visits for children from partner nurseries in addition to the induction days already scheduled.

3. Homework Survey

JC advises there was a great response to this survey with 61% of parents believing that homework should continue in some way at Lenzie Meadow. The next step is to prepare a questionnaire for staff and pupils however homework committee do not feel the children should be asked if homework should continue as parents have already stated their preference

HT said that we do need to ask the children if they want homework to continue as they deserve to have their opinions heard too. SLT will need to look over the information presented from the survey and look at what is worthwhile and quality homework. Important to note that although 61% of people do want homework to continue, 39% don't so we do need to bear that in mind for any changes.

JMcD said she would really like to know what the children are doing every day in class and be shown the strategies that the children are taught.

Termly learning is already sent to all parents, some teachers may post additional info/pics on teams. Children are shown a wide range of strategies but also encouraged to find their own way to problem solve.

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Comments made about the use of Teams for homework and JD points out that everything at Lenzie Academy is Teams based so we have to ensure that the children are prepared for this.

Chair asks the Homework Committee to prepare the new questionnaire for staff and pupils so that this can be sent out asap and fed back in time for the next meeting.

4. Classes next year

HT advises at P4 will be mixed going in to P5 as they always have been. In addition, we will also be mixing the P2 & P3 children as we currently have a P2/3 composite class and will have to have a P3/4 composite so it is only fair that this year group is mixed. Any child who is currently in the composite class will not be in a composite class for the next session. Beyond next year it will depend on the intake of new P1s. We ask the children to nominate 3 friends and will take this on board when mixing the classes. Worth noting that lots of schools change the classes every year and do not have any pupil input.

5. AOCB

Chair feeds back on the presentation she attended about school lunches. Facilities management talked about how the menu is set and about difficulties they face such as cost, Brexit and supply chain. EDC has received a Bronze Award for school lunches.

Chair advises that she will forward on queries that had been raised and resolved prior to the meeting and that the PC Constitution needs to be on the next Agenda. Also need to look at going back to 2 Reps per year group.

Chair brought meeting to a close – next meeting will be Monday 12th April.