



# PARENT COUNCIL MINUTES

**Date:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019  
**Location:** Lenzie Meadow Primary School  
**Time:** 6.30pm  
**Subject:** Parent Council Meeting

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## In attendance:

<b>Staff:</b>	Sheona Allen (HT) Jill Donald (Principal)	Lorraine Donnelly (DHT) Lesley Reid (Nursery)	Hilary Roddick (Acting Principal)
<b>Parents:</b>	Nina Teasdale (Chair) Fiona Wright Susan Tate Justine Currie Alistair Rendall Laura Henderson	David North (Vice-Chair) Kirstie Wilkes Sarah-Jane McArthur Louise Thompson Joyce Thomson Liz Farnell	Lynn Pike (Clerk) Heather Murray Maureen Matheson Emma Donaldson Louise Holland
<b>Apologies:</b>	Cllr Gillian Renwick Jennifer Schofield Gerry Morrison Joslyn Currie	Cllr Sandra Thornton Karen McBride Gillian Cay Jill Penman	Cllr Rod Ackland Alison Campbell Lindsay Hood

## 1. Welcome and apologies

Nina welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were recorded.

## 2. Minutes and Matters Arising

Some amendments to the Minutes of the last meeting were noted, the November Minutes were then approved pending these changes. The AGM Minutes were approved. There were no matters arising.

## 3. Nursery Report

L Reid noted there is little to add from the November meeting.

**Registrations** – It is currently the registration period for the next academic year and all applications are now live. Nursery staff are happy to answer any queries parents may have.

The nursery will be at capacity by April. There are waiting lists in place.

**Early Start** - The 7.30am start is being piloted until March. Its doubtful the service will continue due to a low uptake. A report will be submitted to the council.

It was observed there is no indication of the service availability on the application form, which has led to a lack of awareness and people going elsewhere for the current year. NT asked if it would help for the PC to follow up LR email to the council requesting inclusion on the form? LR advised it is also a question of viability. POMP also offer a 7.30am start.

**Application Forms** - Other form improvements suggested were to include a section for additional comments and the ability to select 'ANY' sessions for those with no clear preference for days and times.



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## 4. Head Teacher Report

**Staff** – The SMT are interviewing this Friday (18<sup>th</sup>) for x2 teacher posts with a February start date. Miss Kettlewell has gone to Wester Cleddens.

**P1 Registrations** – Registration has been interesting this year! Not as many catchment children this year so will open spaces for placing requests. 90 is the current maximum until the current intake reach P4, then will need to reduce as there is no capacity for the school to maintain a triple stream approach. We'll know numbers better in a few weeks' time. Online registration is making the process more slick. Parents noted registration has been very well organised this year.

**School Improvement Plan (SIP)** – raising attainment is about the quality of teaching, as well as about improvements in literacy, numeracy and health and well-being. Children are recognising they are learning more quickly and are realising the benefits of 'hot' and 'cold' pieces of work. LR and JD have looked at the transition of literacy between the nursery and P1 – this has proved valuable learning for the staff. Nursery input and focus helps to shape P1 learning. PM benchmarking in reading is showing the skill of re-telling stories and use of information is benefiting from more development work.

The P7s are working through new SNSAs and staff are seeing lots of pupils sitting at upper levels. Pleased to see standard and ability of judging where capability lies are improving. This will be fed into report cards and communicated at Parents Meetings.

Observation: its encouraging to know they are performing well.

Will look at the P1s after the February break.

**Maths** - L Donnelly recently attended a course for 'Numeracy BluePrints', designed by Chris McKenna (CountOnUs). It introduces a 'BluePrint' board as a visual hands-on learning aid that helps children to develop their understanding of maths concepts. The boards have an area to show working and thinking. They take pupils from Concrete through Pictorial and Abstract learning and offer lots of ways to demonstrate understanding. The school will trial the boards next week (x33 to be left), following a visit from Mr McKenna on Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>. The SMT fully intend to release as many staff as possible to experience this resource and will buy stock for use by the pupils. In May teachers were introduced to Maths Recovery, which is a support resource for staff working with small groups.

Staff have also been involved with meetings across the cluster group, looking at moderation with them. SA feels staff will be more confident now following a focus on their experiences and outcomes. QIO (Quality Inspection Officer) working closely with the staff to support the school.

**Language and communication** have stalled at the moment, will follow up later in year. LR advised the Nursery are already looking at and visiting other centres. Identified Indicator 1 – Physical Environment, and have undertaken an audit, linking in with improvement priorities. Looking at what have on display and how to build on that. Nursery also using a 'Mystery Reader' as part of their literacy programme, and this is being very well received by the children and readers alike.

Curriculum Rationale is one area to build on.

Curriculum = totality of learning experiences across four contexts: ethos/life, curriculum areas and subjects, interdisciplinary learning, and opportunities for personal achievement, delivered by the school and its partners. HGIOS4 states: "a very good school works together as a school community to develop, promote and sustain learning".



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**Discussion** - Meeting attendees were then split into sub-groups and asked to consider the current school vision, which is: “to create learners who are happy, self-confident, motivated and responsible individuals who strive to achieve their very best in all pursuits.”

They were asked if this statement is aspirational enough? Could it be more succinct? Is there too much repetition with the school charter and values? There was collective agreement that we are looking for something more memorable. Everything we do as a school needs to begin with this, so important to keep it simple and easy to remember. SA also shared some examples from other schools.

The groups were also asked to consider ‘what makes Lenzie Meadow unique?’

Size is NOT considered a negative by the children, they see the positives, especially at the younger end of the school. As a PC its important we start to see the positives too. Teachers are also seeing positives, in support networks, development of lesson plans, learning together, and sharing experiences. They no longer feel like a ‘lone worker’. A bigger class allows pupils to be more independent, there is more adult intervention in smaller class sizes.

The children felt the people, resources, recognition of inclusivity (gender neutral toilets), and their involvement in the choice of school name and badge creation, all contribute to what makes their school unique. They really enjoyed being involved with the decision-making process of the name and badge design and feel very positive about it.

Which part of the Shared Values and Charter are evidenced in the feedback already gathered?

Nothing about learning in Shared Values. The children’s feedback includes lots of comments about (& an acknowledgement of) learning. It is also evident they value the physical environment, with many comments recognising the value of the break out areas, work spaces, woodland, ‘big’ stairs, no doors and the ever-popular trim trail. Environmental issues – such as sustainable travel, solar panels (& the ‘Energy Group’), community use of the pitches, and having an outdoor space – were also rated highly. The PC agreed we want happy and confident learners who do their best.

There was agreement that the School Charter values work well and are easy to remember, however, the Shared Values include a lot of repetition and their language is laboured.

SA observed the children have the potential for evolved learning to take place – STEAM – and SMT fully intend to introduce more fun opportunities for learning of this kind once improvements in the basics are bedded in. Sheona thanked the PC for their feedback and will bring together the useful comments and suggestions shared tonight in time for the next meeting.

**Well-being** – LD advised there has been an update of well-being assessments for P6 & P7. High number suggesting the children do not feel safe, with the reason given there are too many parents in the playground. SMT feel this is something the school needs to look at.

Observations: Is this mainly P1 parents? Cited as due to the removal of ‘soft start’, parents do not want to leave children without supervision as people are coming and going all the time and the gate is left open. Playground access used to be limited to P1 parents only – has this been relaxed?

Could one of the gates be shut to limit access? Consider giving P7 responsibility for playground supervision? Felt this was too much for some P7s as soft start caused stress.

Response: The P1 teachers are around, but there are no teachers out in the playground. The children have said they are unhappy with parents/adults moving around ‘their space’.

School policy to be communicated and will include guidance for school pick up, as this is also presenting issues with ensuring child safety.

Please can SMT ensure a staff member is still in the playground if LD is called away? SA agreed the SMT will discuss the issue to find a resolution.



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## 5. PC Update

Nina will email about the Homework Group and the Library Group/Foyle Foundation Grant Application.

D North advised Samantha Burke (EDC – S Mair replacement) has confirmed a contractor has now been appointed for the Rugby Club path and there is a meeting scheduled with them this week to discuss the path requirements. Are the Rugby Club aware of these developments? To be checked.

The Lenzie Academy PC chair has advised the Traffic Community Wardens will be out in the area soon.

## 6. Close and Date of Next Meeting

Nina then brought the meeting to a close with thanks to all for their input.

**DoNM: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019.**