

Minutes of CPSA Meeting 25th Feb 2021

Held Virtually via Zoom

19:30 – 21:00



In Attendance:

Mairi McGeorge (Co-Chair)
Sophie Ritchie (Treasurer)
Lynsey MacPherson (ELC)
Karen Veitch
Lauren Paton
Mary Nash

Keith West (Co-Chair)
Mhairi Murray (EDU)
Ruth O'Keefe
Katie Adirangga
Susan Hart
Dot McDonald

Kelly Girling (HT)
Lynn Vickers (EDU)
Nicola Craise
Joanne Davies
Stella Kinloch
Lindsay Young

Apologies:

Kirsty Buchan (Sec)

ITEM 1

Welcome: Keith officially opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees and extended the committee's thanks to the school and staff for the effort that has been completed during the period of recent lockdown.

ITEM 2

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record, proposed by Karen and seconded by Mairi.

ITEM 3

Treasurers Report: Sophie delivered the treasurers report which stated the current balance for the CPSA account was £7285.09. Outgoings in the previous period included the School Pantomime and CPSA Gambling License. Income was provided by a generous donation of £80.00 from the school staff, and money raised from the Halloween trail and maps.

The Christmas card money is still outstanding from the company.

**Action - Treasurer to chase, and if no joy send details to Chairman for investigation.
Deadline – Update by next meeting.**

ITEM 4

HT Update: Kelly initially extended her thanks to the staff, especially the support staff, who have been working within the school during the lockdown period before delivering the Head Teacher update to the meeting. Below is an outline of the points raised.

Learning at Home Policy (Homework)

In June 2019 we carried out a parental survey with regards to Homework. This came as a result of comments and concerns raised by a number of parents to class teachers during parental consultations. We had a response rate of 51% from across the school. Whilst 67% of replies were in favour of some form of “homework”, the replies and comments indicated that parents would very much welcome a change to the policy that was in place. In September 2020, we held a parent information evening where we introduced Seesaw and how it would be utilised. This preceded a discussion around the homework survey results. We had approximately 30 parents in attendance. Resources were purchased to supply every child with “Learning at Home” kits which included white boards, dice, counters, writing frames, 100 squares and resources appropriate to age and stage. We devised learning at home booklets and writing booklets. In January 2020 we launched this new policy which did not abolish homework, but changed the focus to ‘Learning at Home’ for a trial period which was to be reviewed in June 2020. The policy was carefully composed and supported by research published by Education Scotland. The research shows that learning at home can have significant immediate and longer term impacts on children in different ways. These include a child’s early learning, later achievements, nurture, resilience, wellbeing, social mobility and skills for life.

Our review of our policy has been delayed due to National Lockdown. The parental workshops we were planning to hold in term 3 with regards to learning at home and how parents can support their children in their learning was also unable to go ahead due to the pandemic. We will revisit this at the earliest opportunity.

Action – Parental Workshops to be revisited as soon as COVID19 restriction allow.

Pupil Assessment

On our return to school in August the Scottish Government provided advice and guidance on what the curriculum for the 2020 -2021 school session should look like during what they called the ‘recovery phase’. Prioritisation was to be given to the physical, mental and emotional well-being of children and young people and the building of relationships and social skills, with the recognition that this is fundamental to ensuring all children can engage effectively in their learning, along with a focus on literacy and numeracy. At the end of September, class teachers were able to complete a baseline assessment of where their pupils were in their learning and what the next steps would be. In November class teachers carried out our usual assessments of pupils learning and progress and we were pleased to see that the majority of our pupils had made good progress in the areas we would expect them to. February is usually a point in the year where the council collect our progress and attainment data. Due to the recent lockdown, this has now been moved to April to allow for children to return to school for face to face teaching and to enable staff to make accurate assessments of pupil’s attainment.

Return to School

Today is day of four of ELC and P1 – P3 return and it is lovely to see how well they have all settled back into ELC and school routines and to see them playing and interacting with their friends and teachers and we all have our fingers crossed that it won’t be long till we can welcome back P4 –P7.

Nutritional Standards

On the 8th April there will be a change to National Food and Drinks standards in schools, this not only affects what is on offer from the school kitchen at lunch times but also any food across the school day such as bake sales, afterschool cooking classes, Friday afternoon bake club and tuck shops. It will also

have an impact on our healthy eating policy with regards to healthy lunch boxes and cakes being brought into school. We will be asking for any parents who wish to work with us on updating our policy lets the school office know.

Action – HT to provide CPSA with the new standards document to allow the committee to investigate how we can continue to operate within the new guidelines wrt Bake Sales, refreshments etc.

Deadline – As soon as released

Dog Fouling

At the last community council meeting where on behalf of the school the issue of dog fouling was raised, around the school fence as well as on the paths that parents and children take to walk to school. It was informed that there is no longer a dog warden and that if anyone witnesses anyone leaving dog mess they are to report it to the police.

Action – Continued self policing / monitoring and reporting.

Parental Complaints Procedure

In all instances complaints can be notified in person, by phone, email or writing to the Head Teacher. If after discussion parents/carers wish to take complaint further they may contact the Argyll and Bute Education department at Argyll House.

Note: The Chairman also re-iterated the point that GTCS is not the appropriate pathway for parental complaints as, following on from a A&B Parent Council meeting, 90% of GTCS cases were dismissed at initial consideration, mainly due to incorrect pathway referral.

Request for Funding

Previously HT discussed with the CPSA funding required to purchase new iPads as the current devices can no longer be updated on the school system, with the number of operational devices dwindling week by week. Along with purchasing the remaining four interactive boards needed for classrooms, this would have cost in the region £15,000. Last year the school was able to purchase two interactive boards from the capital items budget. This year an underspend within the cover staff budget and permission has been granted to use that to replace the suite of iPads. The school has been able to purchase a class set of 30 iPads and covers, as well as the last 2 interactive boards. One of these boards is situated in the ELC.

The HT formally requested funds from the CPSA for 7 class iPads and 7 Apple pencils along with 15 Chromebooks. The purchase of the 15 Chrome books would mean there would have be complete class set. The cost for this would be £6446.08.

Action – The committee to look into funding these items, being mindful that the entire cost would consume almost the entire current balance of funds

Deadline – Response for next meeting.

ITEM 5

P7 Transition

Mairi raised the point that due to the current conditions it was extremely unfavourable for the current P7 cohort, having had most of their final year disrupted and there were concerns from multiple parents of that group about the standard of preparation and current educational standard compared to the expected standard of S1 entry. This was not limited to, but included the lack of French being currently taught in P7 over preference to weekly Gaelic sessions.

Note Miss Murray noted that she had conducted French sessions in Term 1 of P7 during lockdown.

Response – HT explained that new educational standard had been introduced whereby all pupils in P5- P7 would be introduced to a term of a 2nd language alongside the 1st, hence the reason Gaelic was being taught.

This was accepted as valid, however concerns remained that French was being overlooked and the Chairman asked if the focus in the last months of the P7 schooling could revert back to French to allow an adequate transition as Hermitage Academy S1 Language is French.

With regard to the P7 transition, HT explained that there was some behind the scenes meetings, however it was asked and agreed that Mr Henry set up individual opportunities to allow P7 pupils and parents to raise individual concerns, especially since COVID19 restrictions had denied the chance of a Parents Evening.

Action – HT to address language curriculum and update at next meeting

HT to feedback to Mr Henry concerns over transition and arrange suitable opportunities for parents and pupils to discuss.

Deadline – Update at next meeting

ITEM 6

Parking around school.

Chairman raised the recurring point of parking in the immediate vicinity of the school gates at pick up and drop off. Despite only ½ the school returning this week, the vehicular movement has been highlighted as dangerous with cars parking on corners, creating blind spots, pulling out without care of pedestrians and children entering / exiting school grounds. This problem was reduced previously by a combined campaign by both school and CPSA over social media and expressions app.

It was asked if we are able to get any of the 3ft high cut-outs used at schools in West Dunbartonshire, from A&B council as a deterrent and agreed that a high profile social media campaign backed up by the school again on Expressions would hopefully reduced some of the traffic flow. Park and Stride will look to be pushed again within the school as part of the Healthy living regime.

Action – CPSA to actively encourage Park and Stride, remote parking away from school entrances.

- HT to send out Expressions App notice politely asking parents / carers to be more considerate and park outwith the immediate school vicinity.

Deadline – Discuss Next meeting to see if any visible improvement has taken place.

ITEM 7

Easter Fundraising

Due to time constraints the Chairman postponed Item 7 and suggested a separate meeting to take place in a weeks time to allow a full and fair discussion to take place. This meeting will discuss the Fundraising ideas for the coming year starting with an Easter fundraiser. All parents and committee members who wish to be involved or have ideas are welcome to attend this meeting. It was requested by the Chairman that any ideas put forward focus primarily on Mental Health for the pupils with fundraising as the added bonus, rather than purely monetary reasons.

Action – Separate fundraising meeting was scheduled for Thursday 4th Mar @ 19:30.

ITEM 8

Any Other Business

ELC Funding – Lynsey MacPherson asked the committee if the ELC was included in their fundraising efforts as they had a requirement to replace some of the outdoor learning materials ie bark and sand. Chairman confirmed that the as the ELC formed part of Cardross Primary School, any fundraising efforts and requests were welcomed. He requested that the ELC requested via the school to ensure that a co-ordinated and prioritised funding request could be submitted, however with regards to manpower to refresh the outdoor space there were a considerable number of volunteers who once were allowed into the school grounds would be willing to assist.

Action – ELC to formally request funding via HT

- HT to examine the possibility of CPSA volunteers being allowed into the school grounds within the Easter break to help refresh and tidy up the ELC and outdoor learning facilities.

Deadline - HT to update at next meeting

ELC Bird Camera Resource – Ruth raised a long standing issue relating to a bird camera resource and associated AV equipment that was donated to the ELC as part of the outdoor learning package, gifted by the now closed Cardross Playgroup. This resource was never initially fully installed due to a wire which needed to be placed through a wall. This works would require A&B council maintenance team due to contractual issues. HT confirmed to the committee that the works request had been submitted and was awaiting completion as and when non-essential maintenance resumes within school buidings.

However more recently the ELC staff, have decided that they do not see the resource being used within the curriculum, and that outdoor nature is preferable to a screen displaying live bird camera footage. The question of where the screen is placed was also raised as a new interactive screen has been installed in the classroom.

Ruth stated that if the ELC did not want the resource, then another school outwith Cardross would gladly accept the donation.

Chairman asked all parties to come to the next meeting with full clarity on the use and siting of the resource and what would be required to complete this, the resource donated should not be allowed to be removed from the school without proper consultation with all involved, including ELC parents and children.

Action – HT to ascertain school / ELC position and clarify intentions over siting and use of the bird camera resource. Ideally a preferential plan and a secondary back up plan.

- Ruth to clarify in writing the Playgroup committee wishes, if the school do not intend to use the resource within the ELC, i.e. is the resource to be removed and gifted to another school, or can it be relocated within Cardross Primary if requested.

- CPSA to issue a resource survey request to all parents of ELC to gather parental consensus over the resource.

Deadline – To be discussed at next meeting.

ZOOM Code Availability – It was requested by a parent that the ZOOM code for future meetings could be sent out via Expressions on the morning the meeting.

This had previously been discussed and due to control of who has sight of the code and regulated access, coupled with the increased attendance at this month's meeting, it was decided that the current method of the school issuing the code to those parents who respond would remain. However, it was noted that enhanced advertisement would help, so for the future meetings a WhatsApp message on the year group pages would go out on the morning of the meeting with any parent able to respond directly to the committee member or the school to access the code. This would achieve increased awareness whilst maintaining digital security.

Action – WhatsApp reminder message to be sent to all year group pages on the morning of the meeting.

ITEM 9

Date Of Next Meeting

The next CPSA Committee meeting will be held on Thursday 25th March @ 19:30

The interim CPSA Fundraising meeting will be held on Thursday 4th March @ 19:30

Keith West

Co – Chair

Cardross Primary School Association

Cpsa2020@outlook.com

