**Minutes of Parent Council Meeting held on Monday 18th November**

 **At**

 **Castle Douglas Primary School**

**Present** – Lesley Andrews (chairperson), Anne Bell (Teaching Representative), Jonathan Hall (Parent), Kay McFarlane (Parent), Gemma Blackburn ( Treasurer/Parent), David Tyson ( Head Teacher), Tara Rooney-Bell (Clerk/Parent)

**Apologies** – Amy Graham (Vice Chair/Parent)

**LA** welcomed everyone to the meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were read

**Matters Arising**

Budget Cuts and Council Spending Review Meeting

* SRM – Parent Katherine Crowther not in attendance to discuss if she was able to attend SVM or the findings from this meeting.
* Mr Tyson informed the Parent Council that more budget cuts are coming. At a recent meeting teachers were asked for opinions on options that could be available for budget attention (given a choice for which they would prefer). The resounding reply was to leave ASL alone. Reduction of RICT was discussed at the meeting along with how an asymmetrical week may be an option, i.e no school on a Friday afternoon. Some school closures may also be on the cards however nothing is known for sure at this point.
* **LA** sent an email expressing PC concern with the cuts to learning centre funding/staffing. A reply was received from Gillian Bryson (Chief Education Officer DGC) thanking Lesley for her correspondence and reassuring that all responses with be collated and presented as they move through conversations over budget setting. She will email with regards to the final meeting and inform of the next steps decided by DGC.
* **LA** attending a meeting of all Parent Council Chair Persons on Thursday 13th November. Mel McGill is the chair of all Parent Councils. **LA** will circulate key points from that meeting that concern primary schools. **Action LA**

Carlingwark Outdoor Centre Closure

There has been no further news apart from the Development Forum have a new chair. Mr Tyson has emailed 3 times regarding walks and outings along with use of equipment however has had no response. Scheduled walk will not be going ahead. **LA** will email in support to see whether this helps. **Action LA**

Pedestrian Flow On Balcony

* There has been concern from parents regarding the ‘crush’ on the infants balcony. **DT** has purchased paint so that arrows can be painted on the balcony to form a one way system along with a hatched area in front of the doors. This will be done when weather permits.
* **KM** suggested non use of the balcony by parents where children are dropped off at the nursery gate. Logistics of this discussed, expressed that some parents would like this but others would not. Would require staffing/supervision for children’s safety. Decided that a sign would be made for the balcony to remind parents to keep doors clear and encourage those who felt comfortable to drop their children off at the gate, a letter will also be sent home with the same information.

School Lunches

* **GB** will send in the questions for questionnaire for the children to complete. Older children will complete during ICT time via online survey. Younger classes will do a Hands up survey.
* **GB** expressed that the menu seems to have better choices this term.
* Still some issues regarding children changing their minds after placing order leaving other children without their choice come lunch time. **DT** sent a note around the classes regarding this issue.
* Small issues such as cutlery running out.
* It was expressed that the new two way flow for hot and cold choices is working very well. **AB** expressed how lovely it is to see some of the dinner ladies engaging with the children when they have all been served. It is nice to see this interaction with the children.

Treasurer’s Report

The current balance is £667.05 GBP

Deactivated account – Lesley is to call to see where the money is. (**GB to reactivate account)**

Headteacher’s Report.

* Mr Tyson has had an email from a resident of Jenny’s Loaning expressing the amount of pollution emitted from parents waiting in cars for their children. All members felt that this did not fall under any responsibility of the school.
* Concern expressed again for the issues in the car park especially with the drop off zone being used for parking and improper use of the disabled bays. Will think of an initiative to try during walk to school week.
* Mr Tyson discussed how CDPS is part of a cluster school and how they have moderation yearly where they can compare schools child attainments with the other schools’ within the cluster to see where your schools strengths and weaknesses are and get ideas how to improve these. Mr Tyson attended the last meeting two weeks ago which was very positive
* SWEIC – 3 councils with East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire. Mr Tyson is unable to attend the next meeting. **AB** informed that funding can be gained via them for training purposes.
* Mr Tyson expressed that the school is again at full capacity
* Mr Tyson was very happy to announce that we have two adults who have come forward to volunteer within the school. These are not pupil parents and Mr Tyson is extremely thankful to them both for decided to come and help.
* The P6 trip to Barcaple has been confirmed for January however this is at a 50% price increase to what was initially thought. The trip will be reviewed afterwards with feedback from the pupils who attend.
* Mr Tyson mentioned The upcoming move to 1140 nursery hours in August (30 hours per week) and the placement of our new Nursery Manager (Michelle McBurnie) who has settled in well and is already a valued member of staff. Mr Tyson expressed that this was a very exciting time for the nursery however there are some concerns regarding cloakroom space, lunchtime, staffing and safe movement within the nursery with this many children. Hopeful these issues can be looked at closer to the time once they know uptake of the full day hours.
* Mr Tyson is approaching the council to ask for another outdoor shelter, would appreciate Parent Council support if this is rejected.

AOCB

* **JH** asked for opinions on starting an appeal on Facebook for outdoor equipment for the children such as boots, waterproofs and rucksacks. This was received well and will be set up by **JH**. **DT** expressed the need to keep the appeal local so that is does not infringe on other school areas
* **KM** expressed concern with the lack of advertisement for the Parent Council and mentioned how it was not easy for someone to feel at ease just walking in to attend. **TR-B** agreed stating it is very nerve wracking coming into one of the meetings for the first time. **KM** asked if there are any way in which to make the Parent Council higher profile so that it garners moe Parent attendees. **LA** mentioned that something had been drawn out in the past and she will look out the old paperwork from the last time it was discussed. Possibly out the agenda on the schools Facebook page with the comment section disabled.
* **LA** mentioned that she had been in contact with Vanessa Morris who is parent liaison for the Parent councils. Parent councils are all members of CONNECT – DGC pays for the membership of this. There are also two insurance policies which are paid for by DGC. To find out the details of these policies. **LA** wonders whether the money could be given straight to the Parent Council. **LA to report back to the next meeting.**

Lesley thanks everyone for their attendance of this meeting. The next meeting is set for **Monday 16th March at 6:30pm.**