



Lochnorris Primary School Parent Council (Meeting No.4)

Wednesday 21 April 2021 – 7pm

Present:

C Donnelly, D Blinkhorn, A McPike, G O’Kane, J D’Agostino, J Quinn, Karen Cairns, J-A Spreadbury, L Thomas, S Hill, L Wright, A Hill, K Torbet, C Heggie

In Attendance:

C O’Driscoll (HT), Mr McPhail (DHT), Mrs Shaw (DHT), A Hastings (SLC) F Bain – What Matters 2 U, H Sykes, N Carmichael

1. Welcome & Meeting Etiquette

CD explained the use of the functions on the meeting platform and asked people to remain on mute when they weren’t speaking but have the cameras on if possible.

2. Presentation by Fiona Bain on “What Matters to You” Project

A briefing was provided on the “What Matters to You” initiative which is currently available in the Cumnock and surrounding area which aims to provide parents with help and support suitable to their needs across a broad spectrum. PC Members asked to think about parents we know that could benefit from supports. C Donnelly thanked F Bain and the parents involved for their input

F Bain, H Sykes and N Carmichael left the meeting.

3. Apologies

Apologies were received from Russell Cowan and Nicola Young.

4. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were approved by general consensus.

5. Matters Arising/Action Plan

Managed via general discussion.

6. Correspondence

CD sought opinion from Parent Council members on the proposal circulated regarding school holiday changes. Opinions to be emailed to CD ASAP. General update provided by CD following attendance at Parent Council Steering Group meeting. 374 children and 153 staff have tested positive for Covid since August 2020, general perception was that cases are being managed better within the schools with dedicated resource assigned. Perception that home learning had gone better during the second lockdown than the first from all parties. MS Teams to be continued as a tool for the school and will be used for home work on occasion.

7. Head Teacher Update

Staffing:

- Miss Cooper P5 - her contract is temporary but until the end of the year providing stability
- Mr Milton P7 – permanent member of staff but will cover until year end to provide continuity
- Mrs Keen P1 – teacher is pregnant therefore will now work from home on curriculum development. Temporary cover being arranged and hopefully there till end of the year

COVID:

Whole school has returned since the last PC meeting. The return went better and the communications have been adhered to, no issues to report.

There was an issue with P1, 1 case of confirmed COVID resulted in all P1 classes having to isolate. School are now staggering play times and lunch times. This still happens within the same times (1230 – 1310) The upper primary classes are utilising the pitches for their breaks. Classroom assistants and management team help supervise the children. Supervision is thinly spread, but staff returning from shielding will also help ease this.

Charity:

Dress down day for Comic Relief raised significant funds, value to be communicated.

Curriculum Development:

Staff are split into three groups, either, literacy, numeracy or wellbeing.

- Lyndsey Smith Literacy Lead - group has commenced an audit of resources. Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) Team will input regarding Active Literacy.
- Gemma Taylor Numeracy Lead - assessments underway to ascertain where the children are at, diagnostic tools being investigated to identify gaps.
- Jackie Shaw Health & Wellbeing lead - 6 priorities identified, introduced wellbeing and currently reviewing the data gathered at class level. Pupils to be involved in the next steps for their class. Further assessments to be completed later in the year to show progress. A wellbeing champion pupil group is to be established. Teaching on sexual health will be a focus this term, to include a catch-up on content missed in the previous year. Wellbeing boxes are to be prepared which will be specific to dysregulated children as a support.

Staff wellbeing was also noted as important and an overview of the staff wellbeing initiatives was discussed.

Other:

Roadmap for improvement being reviewed by the management team. This has been stalled due to Covid. A lot of good things have been done but future progress now needs to be planned.



Parents meetings scheduled to begin at the end of May / early June. Discussion as to whether pupils should be involved in the conversation. Suggested that this was more effective with older children. CO'D to discuss with staff.

A complete digital solution has been purchased which helps assess children to determine their current level. Teacher judgements to be completed in May, this digital solution will assist the judgements ensuring they are as robust as needed and help drive closure with regards to the attainment gap. This will complement the tools already in place.

Members stressed that it was important to interpret and act on the data, not just gather it.

iAbacus also been purchased from spare PEF funding for the next three years.

G Taylor is responsible for transition – ECC – P1 and P7 – S1. It is hoped that a move to Covid Level 2 may allow for physical transition events, but in the meantime, events are online.

SLC Head Teacher Update

Almost all children are back and being kept in very small bubbles. Almost all staff have had their second vaccine, the staff have all had their second vaccine. The children are missing the integration with mainstream school but this is essential at the moment. A roadmap "out of exclusion" is underway to determine how best to integrate again on campus. A staffing review is also underway to staff appropriately for next year's intake, with a large increase in numbers and lots of individual classroom assistant requirement. Parent communication has been excellent over the Covid period and learning from this will be implemented going forward. Communication jotters between the school and home has been replaced by text message. MS Teams will also be explored to educate children during periods of absence. Transition will be done virtually with parental meetings taking place in the school gardens. Improvement plan being developed.

8. Planning for Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) Budget

Pupil equity fund is targeted cash which aims to close the poverty related attainment gap.

This is the last year of guaranteed funding, it is linked to the current Scottish Government, funding is around £130k this year. Suggestions included additional classroom assistants to reduce the size of teaching groups so that very specific, targeted teaching can be undertaken.

C O'D spoke about upskilling the staff to make the funding sustainable, supporting the recovery post Covid and lockdown learning. 2 additional classrooms assistants under consideration as well as an Early Years Practitioner to support the P1 play based pedagogy. C O'D also advised she is looking for a probationer and to maintain the current PEF funded teacher. C O'D was challenged on how the school would measure the return on investment from PEF and explained that some things can be measured more easily than others, some things are observational as opposed to data driven. The overall benefit is to free up the management team to deal with strategic matters as well as covering Non Class Contact Time for teachers and cover playground. Without PEF top up, the 2 Principal Teachers would be class committed.

It was explained that in mainstream schooling, one to one allocated classroom assistants were rare and that budget allocation for CAs was based on the overall ASN log, with the school to allocate as appropriate.



A Hastings noted that in the SLC, classroom assistants were being upskilled by the EAST and that it was necessary to use staff creatively to build capacity.

9. Traffic Management

General abuse of the nursery car park was noted, as was dropping off or pickups on main roads. The school management are aware of this and trying to manage with the campus police. The children are to be reminded also about the parking. The Cumnock Academy car park will hopefully help with this but it is behind schedule. C O'D to obtain an update on the expected utilisation date.

10. AOB

A "Respect for all and Anti-bullying policy" is in the pipeline via EAC but each establishment can adapt to suit each school.

Date of next meeting

- **Tuesday 25 May 2021 at 7pm**

The meeting closed.

Lochnorris Parent Council – Rolling Action Plan

Meeting	Item	Action	Update
27/10/20	Breakfast Club	C O'D	Initial discussions with YIP world have commenced.
27/10/20	Contingency Planning	CO'D	This continues in the background and has worked well with P5/6
21/04/2021	Update on car park utilisation	C O'D	
21/4/2021	Respect for All Anti Bullying Policy to be reviewed at a future meeting	C O'D	