



## Lochnorris Primary School Parent Council

Tuesday 31 August 2021 – 7.30pm

### **Present:**

C Donnelly, S Hill, J D'Agostino, J Quinn, A Hill, C Heggie, A McPike and G O'Kane (joining late)

### **In Attendance:**

C O'Driscoll (HT), L McPhail (DHT), A Hastings (Head of Barony Supported Learning Centre)

### **1. Welcome & Meeting Etiquette**

CD welcomed members and thanked them for accommodating a later start time. Members were reminded to use the "raise hand" function within Teams.

### **2. Secretary Cover**

J D'Agostino agreed to assist with note taking for this meeting.

### **3. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Debbie Blinkhorn, Russell Cowan, P Auld, L Wright, L Thomas and JA Spreadbury. JA Spreadbury has also advised that she does not intend to continue as a member due to other commitments. It was noted that two members no longer had primary age children.

### **4. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes were approved by general consensus.

### **5. Matters Arising/Action Plan**

**Breakfast Club** – Members noted their disappointment that the Breakfast Club has not been able to start as planned. C O'Driscoll advised that she was not able to share any further information. It is hoped that an arrangement can be put in place following the six-week additional mitigations for education settings. SH stressed that we must be planning for the future and acting now for things to begin as soon as restrictions allow. C Donnelly advised that she and J D'Agostino, who is also a Board Member of Yipworld, were hoping to meet with Yipworld management to discuss further.

**Policy Review Timetable** – L McPhail advised that a number of policies were being worked on and would be shared for consultation in the coming weeks. He noted that there was a plan for greater consistency of blog use by classes involving pupils and the publishing of virtual assemblies on the blog. S Hill gave examples of how other schools used their blog and it was agreed that further information on school handbook, policies and etc could be added to make the site a more searchable repository and information point for parents. Good communication would raise the profile of the school with parents and the wider community.

### **SNSA/Teacher Judgement Results and Actions –**

C O'Driscoll shared a series of slides highlighting the results. These show the percentage of learners on track at each stage. The results highlight low attainment at 2020/21 P3 level. Immediate action has been taken to support the current P4 classes to address this issue, with further investigation to be undertaken.

P1 results show an overall dip from the past, but it is very difficult to home learn at this age. Results of peers for the current year are not yet available. An Early Years Practitioner is now assisting in the current P1.

P4 – dips in results for reading and listening and talking against prior results for Greenmill and Barshare. Improved results in numeracy. C Donnelly noted the success in number talks and how many different strategies children were being taught being obvious.

P7 – Improved results from previous years in all areas. Still lower than historic national average. It was noted that P7 children were more able to learn independently whilst at home during lockdown, so did not suffer as much as younger age groups.

C Donnelly to circulate slide pack to members. She thanked C O'D for the presentation and for the quick response to the issue highlighted at P3/new P4.

It was noted that the GL suite of assessments purchased help pinpoint issues as well as helping with teacher judgement scoring.

## 6. Correspondence

CD advised that she had attended the Respect Me Anti Bullying workshop in June - unclear if other members had. Summary update of June PCSG given.

## 7. Head Teacher Update

Mrs O'Driscoll provided the following update, incorporating topics requested in advance by members:

### Staffing:

- It has been possible to retain the 19 class structure and avoid restructuring class groupings. This has kept class sizes slightly smaller and leave space for new joiners.
- There are 3 probationer teachers in school – 2 of which are at zero cost.
- 2 covid recovery teachers (Miss Mair and Miss Caldwell) both have been assigned classes to allow other members of staff to be free to carry out other activities
- A significant number of children are struggling to readjust to school.
- Applications for the DHT post vacant from J Shaw leaving closed today. Leeting to be arranged.
- 3 Classroom assistant posts (PEF) advertised. A huge number of applications have been received with leeting still to be arranged.
- 2 teachers are currently self-isolating, therefore having staff who are not class committed assists with cover

## Feedback to Parents

C O'D advised that the annual working time agreement negotiations were with the union, but it was planned that there would be 3 feedback meetings between teachers and parents. These will be face to face if possible, but done by telephone where that is not possible.

## School Improvement Plan

C O'D advised that this has not yet been written but it would be similar to the prior year.

### Other

- A campus wide literacy and communication project is to be undertaken
- Children are now eating in the dinner hall for the first time since the school opened
- A Hill requested that children who were isolating immediately before the summer holiday be issued with their recognition certificates – CO'D to speak to G Taylor
- A Hill also asked about the temperature in school as children are complaining of the heat. CO'D noted.

## 8. Supported Learning Centre Update

A Hastings provided an update on the SLC

- Very tight bubbles are being retained for now
- SLC pupils will participate in school committees when it can be done safely
- Working on right respecting and communication friendly schools projects
- Currently 46 children in primary SLC across 5 classes
- 3 additional classroom assistants appointed over the summer – awaiting PCG checks
- 8 teachers and 10 classrooms assistants with one vacancy
- P7 to S1 transition went very well
- ECC to P1 transition aided by home doorstep visits – pupils have settled in well

The SLC Improvement Plan and associated PEF spend centre around environmentally friendly projects, trauma, active numeracy and literacy with a focus on achievement rather than attainment.

All children have ILPs with targets set and parents involved. A TAC meeting takes place each year for every child, and 3 feedback sessions will take place. A learner journal is used to provide daily feedback.

Covid as hampered working on the inclusive vision of the campus – this needs to be addressed with a timeframe to be set.

An SLC parent support group is being established, with Jo Quinn leading. The aim of the group is to build confidence of parents and to allow sharing of experience. A McPike welcomed the group as it is difficult for SLC parents to get to know each other as they do not meet at pick up/drop off etc.

After school groups are difficult as SLC children are transported to school. It is hoped that lunchtime groups involving both SLC and mainstream children can be established.

## 9. Planning for beyond restrictions

The Parent Council is keen that planning takes place now, so that actions can be implemented as soon as educational establishment additional restrictions are lifted and so that children are not disadvantaged for any longer than is necessary.

This would include parents visiting school for open afternoons and class assemblies, extra-curricular activities for pupils and other events. The lifting of restrictions should also allow greater SLC/main-stream integrations and better cross campus working involving both staff and resources.

L McPhail advised that extra-curricular activities would be based on pupil voice and what children wanted. It is hoped that there could be a Nativity Play or Christmas Show of some kind.

School/house captains, pupil council, eco committee and other groups should be established quickly. Children have had to work independently for too long, and need to learn to collaborate and work in groups again.

It was felt that Lochnorris needs to be “put on the map”

To invite Scott Guy, Active Schools Co-ordinator to a future meeting.

#### **10. AGM Matters**

Discussion took place around how to encourage new members:

- Blog and App notice to be published saying how often we meet, when, for how long etc
- Members to use direct approach with people to encourage
- Virtual meetings may put people off – return to in person meetings as soon as possible
- Signpost parents to meeting minutes and how to contact the Parent Council
- To investigate whether a form could be created on Blog or app which emails to parent council email address
- To consider having key contacts for each stage post AGM

It was noted that parents do not have the opportunity to meet each other at present – no birthday parties etc and that parents often don't know the parents of their children's friends. Parental anxieties are changing with the return to work and different working and childcare arrangements and reduced physical access to school.

AGM date agreed at 28 September. To reconsider quorum stated in constitution one number of members known.

#### **11. AOCB**

None.

#### **12. Date of next meeting**

- Tuesday 28 September 2021, to include AGM and regular meeting.

The meeting closed at 9pm

**Lochnorris Parent Council – Rolling Action Plan**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Update</b>
<b>27/10/20</b>	Breakfast Club	C O'D	25/5 – anticipated to begin in August 2021 31/8 – unable to take place for 6 weeks during mitigations
<b>21/4/2021</b>	Respect for All Anti Bullying Policy to be reviewed at a future meeting	C O'D	
<b>25/5/21</b>	PC to be involved in policy development.	C O'D	31/8 – certain policies in draft form to be available in coming weeks. Overall better use of blog as source of information to be implemented.
<b>25/5/21</b>	SNSA and teacher judgement results to be shared along with resulting actions	C O'D	Shared at 31/8/21 meeting.
<b>31/8/21</b>	Planning for end of restrictions	SLT	
<b>31/8/21</b>	Invite Scott Guy to a future meeting	Chair	