



Lochnorris Primary School Parent Council

10 November 2021 – 7pm

Present:

C Donnelly, S Hill, R Cowan, G O’Kane, J D’Agostino, J Quinn, L Thomas, A Hill, C Heggie, G Clapperton (joining late), J Benn, T Brady, E Bunting and L Wright (joining late)

In Attendance:

Scott Guy (Active Schools Co-Ordinator) L Smith (DHT), A Hastings (Head of Barony Supported Learning Centre) and J Taylor (Acting DHT)

Presentation by Scott Guy – Active Schools Co-ordinator

Scott explained that he had been redeployed for much of the pandemic, only returning to his own role in Easter 2021. He has had to continually work under restrictions, but has been able to offer holiday clubs and free events. Restrictions continue in East Ayrshire schools which do not exist in other authorities. Activities that exist at present are community based rather than after school clubs but can run at Barony after 4pm. Current classes include football and netball.

The leadership academy has 28 volunteer coaches from RBA and former pupils and is primarily working with CJCE. The finishing time at RBA makes it impossible for the leadership academy to run after school clubs within the local primary schools.

The primary school leadership program for P6 and P7 is currently being revamped.

Scott can source training for any parents, teachers or other volunteers who would like to coach in a particular activity.

Parent Council can help by sharing information on clubs and activities, mainly from CJCE social media and by encouraging parents and others to volunteer to become coaches or to help at events. Scott can also work with us to obtain funding for activities.

At present, Scott has a new project with the SLC.

CD thanked Scott for his input. He left the meeting at this time.

1. Welcome & Meeting Etiquette

CD welcomed members. Members were reminded to use the “raise hand” function within Teams.

Tina Brady and Eve Bunting have requested to join the Parent Council. In line with the constitution, existing members agreed to both being Co-opted as Members.

2. Secretary

There were no volunteers or nominations for the role of secretary vacant since the AGM – S Hill offered to assist for this meeting. To carry forward vacancy to next meeting.

3. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cindy O'Driscoll (HT) and Debbie Blinkhorn.

4. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were approved by general consensus.

5. Matters Arising/Action Plan

Breakfast Club – C Donnelly presented the results of the survey in relation to Breakfast Club.

Summary – of those that would pay to use breakfast club:

- **75** parents who responded would be willing to pay
- Main use is for childcare
- Price point preference **£2-3**
- Average of **39.2** parents using per day over a fortnight
- **105** children would use at some point
- Average of **41.45** children using each day over a fortnight

The previous survey undertaken by J Shaw showed that 223 parents would use breakfast club, with 90 of these being for reasons other than childcare. On a 1.5 child average, this could be a further 135 children who would make use of a breakfast club at some point during the week.

A Hastings noted that Barshare had a very successful breakfast club which was funded from PEF and supported by school catering. It was noted that Greenmill also had a very successful breakfast club, which was at times funded via Cash for Kids and Greggs, but finally via PEF.

It was noted that 20% of the school population requiring breakfast club on a pay to use basis, on top of the vulnerable children who need it on a free basis (more than 20%) meant that there was significant need for a Breakfast Club and that such a provision meets with the Campus Values. CD will share this data with YIPWORLD but we need to consider alternatives if they cannot take forward. J Taylor noted that C O'Driscoll's report stated that she would not assist with staffing a Breakfast Club at present. Members requested that the Chair contact EAC centrally about how a breakfast club can be achieved and potentially funded and get information from other schools via the PCSG. The Chair should also raise with P Gilchrist as Head of Campus at the Campus Wide Parent Council as the service could be operated on a wider, campus basis once restrictions allow.

Policy Review Timetable – Parent Council feedback on the Dignity at Work and Anti-Bullying policies had been shared with Lee McPhail. L Smith advised that these policies were back with the staff for finalisation. L Smith will share the draft Literacy Policy which has been written in conjunction with the SAC Literacy specialist. CD to circulate to members for feedback. J Taylor to circulate the numeracy policy when it is available.

Campus Wide Issues – Parking and Litter

C Donnelly has made contact with Ayrshire Roads Alliance regarding the parking and traffic situation. They have responded that they would be happy to assist. L Smith advised that B Rae from ARA had been on site. Discussion noted that as well as the parking issues there are serious issues with the



traffic lights at the junction with Holmhead with a number of “near misses” whilst the green man is showing. The danger is added to by the 2 sets of lights in close distance leading to a tail back of traffic and the rotation within the lights being too quick. C Donnelly to raise all of these points with ARA and at the Campus Parent Council meeting with P Gilchrist. Wider understanding is that a “lollipop” crossing patroller would not be employed at the junction when there is a “green man” facility. Members agreed that the safety of our children must come first.

6. Correspondence

East Ayrshire NPFS correspondence already shared with Members.

No members attended the Education Reform event.

7. Head Teacher Update

As C O’Driscoll is currently off school, L Smith and J Taylor provided the update.

Members asked how the school was operating when the management team had reduced from 5 to 2 at this time. The DHT and Acting DHT have support from A Hastings and P Gilchrist and have had their Academy teaching commitment reduced. Members raised concern that the reduced staffing was not sustainable and that key areas were being missed.

Staffing:

- The DHT vacancy has now been advertised – leeting and interviews to follow
- The Principal Teacher vacancy has also been advertised.
- 3 new Classroom Assistants have started via PEF funding with a further post to be advertised
- One maternity leave cover class teacher post is being advertised
- P1 teacher Ms Johnston is leaving to take up a post in another authority
- Mrs Dougan-Smith will now work from home before commencing her maternity leave in line with pregnancy guidelines – this post has been back filled.

Members raised concern regarding the DHT post and the gap between closing date and leeting/interview having the potential to lose good candidates. Better planning is required in future.

Members raised concern about staff retention and one member noted that her child had 4 different teachers in one school year at Lochnorris. A Hastings advised that a number of changes arise due to staff taking on permanent or promoted posts elsewhere, and at present staffing changes are impacted by a number of maternity leaves. Tina Brady offered to become trained in EAC recruitment process to provide greater scope for Parent Council involvement in interview panels.

School Events

Recent events include:

- Flu immunisations
- Virtual assemblies
- P5 COP event
- TAC meetings
- Parents meetings planned for next week
- Online anti-bullying production

- Working towards a Christmas production to be shared with parents virtually
- The School Improvement Plan has now been submitted to EAC – to be distributed to members

Other activities

- Working towards Rights Respecting School bronze accreditation
- Lochnorris and SLC working to become a Promethean centre of excellence
- Focus on Campus values with “VIP” stickers awarded to pupils
- Focus on encouraging reading
- Numeracy training planned for 29/11

Areas of interest from members

Trips and Planning for future P7 residentials – J Taylor stated that EAC policy was that trips were not allowed to be planned at present. Members noted that schools in other authorities had already undertaken trips and many had already booked or flagged P7 residentials for the future to allow parents to begin saving. There is a concern that our children are missing out.

House System different to RBA and against campus approach – staff noted that it was RBA who were not keen to have house structures set from before S1. The Lochnorris plan is to have one member of the SLT for each house to create an overall family link. The next step will be to elect Captains and Vice Captains for each house.

8. Supported Learning Centre Update

A Hastings provided an update on the SLC

- Now working more closely with L Smith and J Taylor
- SLC children are accessing assemblies and are included in the house structure, creating a more inclusive environment
- Very tight bubbles are being retained re health needs
- Staffing is currently impacted by Covid absence, with returns delayed further than in mainstream due to the vulnerability of the children
- SLC events are being publicised in the app
- Focusing on communication friendly environment
- Working towards Rights Respecting Silver
- Participating in eco group
- Parent’s group to begin working with Scott Guy
- Jo Quinn involved in a Columba 1400 event

9. AOCB

None.

10. Date of next meeting

- Wednesday 12 January 2022, to invite Lisa Stobbs as guest speaker.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Lochnorris Parent Council – Rolling Action Plan

Meeting	Item	Action	Update
27/10/20	Breakfast Club	C O'D Chair	25/5/21 – anticipated to begin in August 2021 31/8/21 – unable to take place for 6 weeks during mitigations 10/11/21 – to feedback survey results to YIPWORLD To contact EAC and other schools re options for taking forward. Raise at Campus Parent Council
25/5/21	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.
31/8/21	Planning for end of restrictions	SLT	
28/9/21	Position of Secretary to be filled at next meeting	Chair	agenda for 8/11/21 and 12/1/22
28/9/21	School Improvement Plan to be shared at next meeting	C O'D	Discussed high level 10/11/21 – document to be shared with members for comment.
28/9/21	Lisa Stobbs, SLC Communication champion to be invited to a future meeting	Chair	Invited for 12/1/22
28/9/21	Parking – to raise with P Gilchrist, police and ARA	Chair	Raised at Campus Parent Council and with ARA – update to be provided 12/1/22
28/9/21	Litter – to raise with P Gilchrist	Chair	Raised at Campus Parent Council
10/11/21	Literacy policy	All	Members to feedback on policy circulated.
10/11/21	Numeracy policy	JT	To circulate when available.
10/11/21	EAC recruitment training for T Brady	Chair	Done