



## Lochnorris Primary School Parent Council

12 January 2022 – 7pm

### **Present:**

C Donnelly, S Hill, J Quinn, L Thomas, C Heggie, M Calder and T Fleming.

### **In Attendance:**

C O'Driscoll (HT), L Smith (DHT), and J Taylor (Acting DHT)

### **Presentation**

It was hoped to have a presentation from Lisa Stobbs, SLC Communications Champion, circumstances have not allowed this to happen, but will be arranged for a future meeting.

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

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

#### **2. Secretary**

There were no volunteers or nominations for the role of secretary vacant since the AGM – Tina Fleming advised that she would be willing to assist in the future.

#### **3. Apologies**

Apologies were received from L Wright, R Cowan, J D'Agostino, J Benn, G O'Kane and A Hastings.

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

The minutes were approved by general consensus.

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

**Breakfast Club** – C Donnelly reported that Yipworld had advised that they were unable to take this venture forward on the grounds of financial viability. The matter was discussed at PC SG and some schools have breakfast clubs running at present, where they are operated by third party external providers. Head of Education has advised that a new standard circular is being drafted on the subject and is due imminently. Breakfast Clubs are seen across the authority as an essential service. Lochnorris PC and Parent body feel very strongly about the need for a Breakfast Club. To await release of Standard Circular and continue to push for this resource which fits with campus values.

As per below, raised at Campus Parent Council, as this could be a campus venture, and Peter Gilchrist is supportive.

**Policy Review** – Parents to provide feedback on the literacy policy already circulated

#### **6. Correspondence**

##### **Campus Parent Council – 17 November 2021**

C Donnelly reported on the meeting. P Gilchrist is very keen to get all forms of cross campus working underway. This has been largely prohibited by Covid restrictions. As well as cross campus teaching and learning, this would include policy development, mentoring and the campus improvement plan.



On a more operational level, campus wide issues such as breakfast club, traffic and parking and litter were discussed. The group is likely to meet every two months.

Members noted that the parking situation has deteriorated again, with afternoons being worse than mornings. As soon as the police or traffic wardens are not visible, people revert to bad practices.

Staff advised that Mrs Taylor and the JRSO group are providing education on road safety at assembly.

Suggested that we invite a representative from Ayrshire Roads Alliance to attend a future meeting.

C O'Driscoll noted that the park and stride facility on the Ayr Road side is there to be used.

### **Parent Council Steering Group – 23 November 2021**

C Donnelly provided an update from the meeting.

- A Covid update has been provided but as this was before the Omicron variant it was now very out of date.
- Parent Councils around the authority are pushing for the reinstatement of music lessons, swimming lessons, breakfast clubs and other extra curricular activities. On Breakfast Clubs it was noted that these are usually staffed by Classroom Assistants but that at present, it is difficult due to level of absences.
- Education service redesign is ongoing.
- The changes to the Scottish Attainment Challenge funding model means less cash is available to East Ayrshire and therefore the impact of PEF has to be maximised.
- The PCSG Chair and local NPFS representative are available to support individual Parent Councils in matters where they need to challenge the school or local authority.

### **7. Head Teacher Update**

C O'Driscoll provided the update.

#### **Staffing:**

- Currently 3 vacancies: 1 DHT, 1 PT and 1 teacher (to cover non-contact time)
- DHT interviews take place tomorrow.
- The current PT vacancy was interviewed, but as there were no suitable candidates, this will be readvertised.
- Mr Gilroy is currently covering the acting PT post, but no back-fill of staff has been available.
- 2 new Classroom Assistants have been recruited, awaiting final checks.

#### **Contingency Planning**

CO'D advised that three broad scenarios have been considered regarding teaching and learning if staffing levels were to be impacted by Covid. In order of severity of impact: The first being internal changes, keeping all children in school, the second keeping children in school but perhaps on a reduced hours basis and the third being some kind of reintroduction of home learning. Up until now,



absences have been manageable and it is hoped that no significant impact is felt. It was noted that pupils and staff are far better equipped for remote learning than ever before. Members recommended that a high level statement go to parents, covering the intent, to avoid parents second guessing/sharing things that are not true. C O'D to action.

In response to a query from a member, L Smith advised that additional supports are planned with a rolling program involving the EAST teacher and Classroom Assistants. A plan is also in place for appropriate materials to be available for class teachers to use.

### **Christmas**

Activities took place as much as they could and included online events like the panto, quiz and nativity/concert and in class bubble activities such as parties and Christmas lunch. Staff are very keen for parents to be able to visit the school and participate in the life of the school in person.

### **Other activities**

- Parents Meetings continue by phone for now
- Twice weekly virtual assemblies are taking place, with separate infant and upper school events.
- VIP – Values In Practice stickers are being distributed to pupils as appropriate.
- Staff collegiate working continue to take place on Teams. Topics include SAC numeracy training, outdoor learning and ASN plans
- Work continues with the educational psychologist on neurodiversity.
- Staff are keen to provide after school clubs when this is possible, but the PE facilities cannot be used straight after school as RBA are still in class.

A member had asked about Health and Safety in the Park and Stride car park. C O'D advised that the janitors do grit this area.

## **8. Supported Learning Centre Update**

As A Hastings was unable to attend, Jo Quinn provided an update on the SLC

- SLC has experienced a number of staff absences in recent weeks
- Pupil attendance has been good
- Training and upskilling of staff is ongoing
- Rights Respecting Schools and Communications Friendly initiatives are ongoing
- The SLC Parent Group is operating well.
- The planned projects with Scott Guy are now on hold due to restrictions.

## **9. AOCB**

None.

## **10. Date of next meeting**

- Wednesday 2 March 2022.

The meeting closed at 8pm

**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  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  12/1/22 – Awaiting publication of EAC Standard Circular and changes to restrictions.
<b>31/8/21</b>	Planning for end of restrictions	SLT	12/1/22 starting to plan extra curricular activities
<b>28/9/21</b>	Position of Secretary to be filled at next meeting	Chair	agenda for 8/11/21 and 12/1/22  12/1/22 – T Fleming offered to assist in future after the birth of her baby.
<b>28/9/21</b>	Lisa Stobbs, SLC Communication champion to be invited to a future meeting	Chair	Invited for 12/1/22 – carried forward to future meeting.
<b>28/9/21</b>	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  12/1/22 – to consider inviting ARA to a future meeting
<b>28/9/21</b>	Litter – to raise with P Gilchrist	Chair	Raised at Campus Parent Council
<b>10/11/21</b>	Literacy policy	All	Members to feedback on policy circulated.
<b>10/11/21</b>	Numeracy policy	JT	To circulate when available.
<b>12/1/22</b>	Contingency Planning – high level plan to be shared with parents.	CO'D	Done