**Gargieston Primary School and Early Childhood Centre**

**Minutes of Parent Council Meeting**

**Monday 13th September 2021**

**7pm-9pm**

**Present:** Joanne Rae, Julie Jaconelli, Dovile Connor, Julie McKee, Eileen McLaughland, Roddy Gourlay, Kirsty Dow, Susan Wilson, Julie Work, Nikki Cowan, Nicola Wallace, Jennifer Evans, Fozia Rana, Gillian Cameron, Gillian Hudson, Jenny McPartland

 *(All meetings are currently virtual; therefore, this list may not be 100% accurate due to attendees not signing in. Every effort is made to record names as they enter the meeting, however, due to the nature of virtual meetings, this is not always possible.)*

**Apologies:** Tracy Millar, Lee, Louise Hunter, Gillian McCallum, Katie Ryan

**AGM**

Laura Hynds is stepping down as Vice Chair. Dovile Connor and Katie Ryan proposed as Vice Chair. Proposal to share Vice roles to create a 3 person team with Julie Jaconelli as Chair, Dovile and Katie as co Vice Chairs. Secretary role will be on a rotational basis for minutes. Proposed by Julie Jaconelli and seconded by Julie Work.

GFG is to continue as is as the current group is working well. Julie discussed the external auditing of the GFG accounts. This did not happen in 2019/2020 (2020/21), we need to do arrange for audit of accounts. Eileen Speirs completed this previously and would do again if asked. Julie to send Annual Report with key events of the year. Usual commitments that GFG fund each year will need fundraising activity planned.

All current Parent Council members happy to stay members. Roddy Gourlay proposed as new member. Julie Jaconelli proposed, Susan Wilson seconded. A flyer for new Primary 1 parents to go out (Julie to create and send).

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS PARENT COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes from Parent Council meeting dated Monday 16th June agreed to be an accurate representation of events.

Proposed by Dovile Connor, Judith Wilson seconded. Minutes adopted.

**HEADTEACHER REPORT**

**Gargieston Community News**

Tributes were paid to Gary Patterson, Laura Vernall and Rio Anderson.

Mrs Kerr had a baby girl today.

**COVID-19**

Some positive changes in the new session. Children have returned to Dining Hall. P7s supporting P1s. Playground is more open for mixing between age groups.

The school continues to operate under restrictions. This is unlikely to change at the end of September as community cases are still on the rise. Only 9 child cases since August. Mrs McKee assured school transmission is not an issue. Whole class isolation now removed which is having a positive effect. A third of the children in nursery were off today. Negative PCR test results need to be shared with school as per Mrs McKee's email and app message last week. This is as a result of instances in schools where positive tests have not been declared and asymptomatic children are returned to school.

**Contingency planning** – this will be in place as per Scottish Government guidance. Plans in place for online and blending learning if that is required. P3 until P7 are using MS Teams for homework, this forms part of the contingency planning should school closures be required.

P1 Learning Journals (moved from ECC). Hope to move to Observations between September Weekend and October holiday. We decided P2 would not be set up with Learning Journals, they will continue with Blog until they move to MS Teams in P3.

Mrs Griffiths to update Home Learning matrix on the blog should it be required. Full classwork can't be sent home for each individual pupil as not feasible for teachers to do this on an ongoing basis.

**PCR Guidance**: Classic COVID symptoms (Fever, loss of taste/smell, new persistent cough) recommend to have a PCR.

**Questions around P7** planning. Advice has been no residential at this point. To be reviewed at a later date when more is known about ongoing restrictions.

**School roll update**. Currently 428 across 16 classes.

**Staffing Update**

NQT - Mrs MacNee, Miss Tognini and Mrs Johnston all settling in well. Mrs Griffiths is current Acting PT. Miss Davidson also Acting PT on short term basis. HR have advised a redployment exercise for PTs is required/underway. Gargieston have received one of these placements, due to go on Maternity Leave.

**Vacancies** 1 FT PT, 1 maternity leave PT. These are currently with HR for advertising. Mrs Hope is currently backfilling one of the vacancies. Miss Brown will be joining us from Struthers in Troon, focus will be on P4 and P5 stage. Senior clerical post recruited for at the end of last term but appointed person took another job. SCA did not receive good internal interest so also currently with HR to recruit external.

**ECC**: Move to 1140 hours has gone well. Young people doing very well. 64 places in the nursery, lengthy waiting list. Miss Quinn and Miss Ferguson new practitioners. 3 Support Assistants (predominantly to support lunches etc). Recruitment has been challenging due to people movement across the sector.

**Establishment Improvement: C**onsultation and had 5 responses however is it is hoped parents read even if they did not respond. Attainment in writing is not where we need it to be, this took a big dip from P4 to P7. Literacy is staying on the Improvement Plan with a focus on writing. During lockdown, engagement in writing tasks was poor with many young people.

Feedback strategies will continue into this session.

Digital technology was a previous focus.

1. Moving to attainment in numeracy, Mrs Griffiths is going to lead on this and will start soon. SAC team to support including Linda Keith training.
2. Mentally healthy schools , Mrs Davidson is taking this forward. For children, staff and the wider community.
3. Rights Respecting School. Moving to Gold Mrs McLaughland. Target date of March 2022.
4. Developing creativity. The pandemic made creative arts difficult, music drama and art, the children missed this, especially those for whom creative arts was their time to shine. Mr Hay and Mrs Marshall are going to lead on this.

All teachers select an improvement group. P6 and P7 are going to be offered to get involved in improvement groups also.

Mrs McLaughland updated Parent Council on Rights Respecting School. Journey from Silver to Gold. This was paused during pandemic. Ambassadors from each class. Not just staff and school, this for the community to embed. Mrs McL - looking for 2 or 3 parents to be involved and asking to send an email to Mrs McL with interest. Dovile Connor and Fozia Rana both volunteered. Mrs McKee said a MS Forms will go round with all improvements.

**PEF Funding –** Gargieston has been allocated £28000. Gargieston has seen a reduction in classroom assistant hours. PEF budget is now paying for classroom assistants and P1 Learning Packs.

**AOB**

**PE**: PE is currently still outside so uniform and trainers is acceptable. Gym hall is out of commission due to lunches over 2 hours. When the go ahead to indoor PE is given parents will be advised on bringing in PE Kit.

**Art**: Mrs Hope’s 'Daily Draw' had been good at getting young people engaged with art. Mrs Hope drew on the board with children copying. Arts for kids hub (Mrs Skelton also did this).

**Road Safety**: Gillian Hudson provided an update, keep trying to get an update from Kerr. Guard rails, zig zags, signage etc. Asked for the police to do a patrol again. Parking attendants attended school but no update on what they were doing and future visits.

**GFG**: Christmas Card planning should be started ASAP. Halloween fun day could be repeated, unlikely to be a disco this year due to ongoing restrictions. Susan Wilson suggested we could get involved with West FM cash for kids, 4 weeks to raise £1500. Prizes and raising for school as well as communities.

**School Photos:** Currently not possible

**Morrison's Gardening Equipment:** Julie Work discussed the opportunity to get tokens for school gardening equipment. Mrs Lawson has sent instructions out on the app on how to collect tokens for this.

Questions asked about Shirley and Captain Conker visit on Wednesday for P4s up. Hexagoal is P5 and up.

Next meeting date 9th November 2021.

Meeting closed.

To contact the parent council please email:

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