**Gargieston Primary School and Early Childhood Centre**

**Minutes of Parent Council Meeting**

**Tuesday 9th November 2021**

**7pm-9pm**

**Present:** Julie Jaconelli, Dovile Connor, Julie McKee, Eileen McLaughland, Roddy Gourlay, Kirsty Dow, Susan Wilson, Julie Work, Fozia Rana, Gillian Hudson, Jenny McPartland, Katie Ryan, Gillian McCallum, Leigh Ferguson, Tracy Miller, Judith Wilson.

 *(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:** Louise Hunter,

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

Minutes from Parent Council meeting dated Monday 13th September agreed to be an accurate representation of events.

Proposed by Julie Work, seconded by Judith Wilson. Minutes adopted.

**OUTSTANDING ISSUES REVIEW**

**School photos**

Possibility for next year. Around Easter or in May was suggested. School hall can be used, for individual photos and group photos of P1 and P7 classes. Julie Work suggested to book photographer in advance as his spaces are limited. Julie Work to liaise with photographer (Scott) and Mrs Lawson.

**P7 Leavers**

Residential trip not permitted due to continuous COVID restrictions in EAC. Mrs McKee proposed activity week event – similar as last year, which was a success. Party planning on hold until after Christmas, start on hoodies in the next couple of weeks. Suggested to form a separate P7 Parents Committee.

Mrs MacPartland raised concerns about the inconsistency of Covid restrictions across the different education departments, lacking provisions review. Mrs McKee agrees that circumstances are frustrating for parents, staff as well, current COVID situation being challenging if not the worst the school has ever seen. Julie Jaconelli will propose this issue be on on the agenda for the next NPFS meeting held on 15th November.

**AGENDA**

**Playground supervision-communication**

Fozia Rana raised concerns over the playground staff use of personal mobile phones during the playtime supervision. Mrs McKee reminded the meeting that mobile phones are used due to lack of other equipment and are for safety purposes. There are 5 Walkie-Talkies at school, which is not enough to cover all staff required. Equipment is costly and GFG has been asked to consider gifting it to school. Gillian MacCallum said GFG will consider adding it to the wish list. The majority of members agreed that funding should be sought elsewhere. Julie Work suggested using a local council scheme for cheaper mobile devices. Jenny MacPartland will explore Connecting Scotland option through work.

**Access to playtime toys**

Due to COVID restrictions, equipment has to be cleaned between uses, which has limited access to it. Football goals cannot be used – grass area is too wet at the moment. It has been proposed to include House Captains/Gargie Guides with responsibility of taking out/tidying up of playground equipment.

**Cloakroom usage/Outwear storage**

Issue has been brought to the wider management team. Not enough coat pegs for the upper school pupils, starting from P3. As mixing still not allowed due to Covid guidance, use of cloakrooms not possible. Teachers reinforcing routines. Mrs McLaughland will include this issue in the Property pledge.

School trip to theatre not possible this year due to EAC Education department COVID guidance. School will use funds raised during Halloween fun day to provide its pupils with virtual pantomime show ‘Aladdin’. There will be ECC Nativity show this year – recorded and shared virtually. P2/P1 Nativity will be filmed separately with P1 pupils participating as a choir and P2 performing the narration. P7/P6 rehearsing for the pantomime show led by Mr Hay and the Base 4 staff. This will also be recorded separately at the Take A Bow premises and shared virtually with Premier viewing.

Questions were raised about instrumental music tuition. There’s a general concern, especially amongst P6 parents, that pupils are missing out on this opportunity. Letters have been sent out to P4/P5 pupils but not with P6. Julie McKee to follow this up.

Kirsty Dow enquired about school football team. The football team is not permitted to play other teams and there is a lack of volunteers to take up extra-curricular training. Training indoors still not an option.

**Parent body communication**

Questionnaire to be created in the new year to gauge the opinions and views of the wider parent body. Parent Council deems it important to communicate with all the parents and give them opportunity to express their concerns or wishes.

**GFG REPORT**

GFG held a meeting on Sunday to discuss fundraising options and commitments. In the past GFG funds provided school ties for P7 and P1, books, Halloween supplies, trim trail, outside clock, play equipment, etc. Currently, the group is very restricted with actions it can actively take to raise the funds for the school. The fundraising donation pledge is being considered. Claire MacPherson and Julie Jaconelli created a promotional rhyme for the pledge. It was agreed the pledge will be launched in the new year. The Christmas raffle will be main focus at the moment. School office will set up Parent Pay for the raffle tickets and keep the administration up to date. GFG helping with advertising and raffle prizes. Proceeds from this event can be referred back to GFG for consultation of its investment.

P7 pupils are carrying out a reverse advent calendar this year as well asking for food donations. This will be done in conjunction with Rights Respecting scheme.

**HEADTEACHER REPORT**

**COVID-19**

Situation is worrying across East Ayrshire schools. There are increased cluster cases. In Gargieston Primary there have been 37 cases since October break, including a cluster of cases in P7B. The whole P7B class took PCR test, 3 asymptomatic cases identified. A lot of effort is being used to cover staff shortages due to them being identified as close contacts and the need to take PCR tests. Children are encouraged to take LFT when asymptomatic to identify cases.

**School Roll**

There are 426 pupils currently in Gargieston Primary.

**Staffing Update**

Mrs Griffiths has been successfully appointed as permanent Principal Teacher. Miss Davidson will remain as Acting Principal Teacher until June 2022. Miss Brown did not accept a post in Gargieston. Miss Feighan has been appointed and will start next week Miss Feighan has previously been a teaching student with Miss Davidson and is familiar with school. Interviews have been carried out for Clerical staff and Mrs Coutts has been appointed.

**Feedback to parents**

Snapshot jotters have been sent out this week. Primary 1 classes are on Learning Journal trial. Feedback from parents suggest this to be a preferable option to keep a track on children’s learning.

All parent calls will be carried out next week. Apologies extended for confusion in online booking forms.

**Establishment Improvement**

A plan has been now published on the school blog. Parents are encouraged to familiarise themselves with it – there is a concise summary at the end of the document.

* Mrs Lawson is leading the focus on literacy.
* Mrs Griffiths leading in numeracy attainment, Linda Keith numeracy training for staff has been arranged.
* Mentally healthy schools lead by Miss Davidson has been identified as a priority. Questionnaires have been sent out for pupils. Glasgow Motivation & Wellbeing Profiles have been completed with all children from the ECC to P7 the results will be collated in due course.
* Creativity. Use of visual arts in creative teaching. P4 classes got involved with Scots text to generate creativity. Staff will carry out audit to identify drama, music and arts resources available and needed.

**Rights Respecting School Award**

Mrs McLaughland gave an update of work towards achieving the Gold Award.

* A Steering group has been formed from pupils in P3-P7 classes and meet every two weeks in the hall.
* The “right a fortnight has been ongoing. A chosen article is being discussed in classes for two weeks. This week Article 29 – children taking care of environment, which ties in with ongoing COP26 conference in Glasgow.
* Homework poster task was a success. Some entries displayed in Morrison, some displayed in Tesco. ECC work will be added as well. There is an intention to be published in Kilmarnock Standard. Last week’s assembly saw some of the chosen posters presented by pupils.
* Property pledge will be carried out. Children will take responsibility to establish what things need repairs in school premises – bases, hall, cloakrooms – and present it to EAC properties department.
* Mrs Wallace has volunteered to contribute with artwork at school. She will draw 4 trees in corridors to represent school houses – red, blue, green and yellow. It will incorporate children’s thumb prints. Different shade of print represents different school year. This will include nursery children, teaching staff, non-teaching staff. There will be space identified for new pupils as well. The pictorial representation of school community with a promise to upheld UNCHR articles. The outline of trees has been done, paint ordered.

Gold Award deadline March 2022.

**AOB**

**Digital School Award**: Gargieston Primary has received a special award for Cyber Resilience and Safety. The only school in East Ayrshire to achieve this award.

**Parent steering group:** please forward questions and items for agenda to Julie Jaconelli. Next NPFS meeting will be held on 15th November.

Meeting closed.

Next meeting 31st January 2022.

To contact the parent council please email:

gargiestonparentcouncil@gmail.com