**Gargieston Primary School and Early Childhood Centre**

**Minutes of Parent Council Meeting**

**Tuesday 29th March 2022**

**7pm-8pm**

**Present:** Julie Jaconelli, Dovile Connor, Julie McKee, Roddy Gourley, Kirsty Dow, Nikki Cowan, Susan Wilson, Julie Work, Judith Wilson, Shona Lawson, Lesley Campbell, Louise Hunter, Jennifer Stewart, Katie Ryan.

 *(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:** Suzanne Wilson, Iain Linton, Jenny MacPartland, Gillian Hudson

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

Minutes from Parent Council meeting dated Monday 31st January agreed to be an accurate representation of events.

Proposed by Jennifer Stewart, seconded by Roddy Gourley. Minutes adopted.

**OUTSTANDING ISSUES REVIEW**

**P7 transitions**

Email sent by Grange Parent Council to encourage future S1 parents to get in touch with them to raise questions with regards to Gargieston pupils starting the secondary school.

Grange plans to run 3 meetings with prospective new parents. Louise Hunter reported that recent meeting had 85 members on call and went well, Mrs Crawford (Depute Head-Teacher) and Miss Cardow (Acting Depute Head-Teacher) in attendance. Grange is collaborating with different schools with regards to transition.

There was a meeting on line on Monday past with Gargieston pupils and heads of departments in Grange. Children were able to ask related questions about future topics, expectations, etc.

Visits are expected in final term, depending on regulations, potentially visiting in smaller groups, for example, in their house groups.

Gargieston P7 have received their hoodies and are wearing them extensively across the school.

Kirstie Dow has sent out a message to the leavers parent group chat to discuss leavers’ party and activities. Kirstie Dow, Louise Hunter and Lindsey Scullion are happy to lead organisational aspects of it. More details to follow after the Easter break, asking pupils for opinions as well.

**School parking issues**

A meeting was organised on 28th February between ARA Keir Chalmers, Cllr Iain Linton, Mrs Mckee, Parent Council representatives Julie Jaconelli and Dovile Connor and JRSO representatives Harry Hunter and Chloe McCully. During the walk around grounds inspection, the following issues have been brought to the attention of Keir Chalmers and Ian Linton: remote controlled barrier at the entrance to staff parking, additional and clear parking lines at the top of the staff car park near the playground entrance, road markings repainted at the Mount Avenue entrance, pavement made safe and accessible at the Mount Village access road.

On 2nd of March, Cllr Linton sent an email to Andrew Kennedy at EAC, urging to look into those issues. On 3rd of March response received and matters have been taken on board. School is awaiting further development.

**Rights Respecting School Gold Award**

Virtual assessment meeting held on 24th March – 1 hour with assessors, Kirstie Ramsey being one of them. Parent group was represented by Mrs Ryan and Mrs Wallace. Mrs McLaughland prepared a very detailed presentation. Awaiting official assessment results. Mrs McKee received feedback – it was noted that Gargieston school has embedded well the ethos of kindness, respect and caring; children have an identified adult to reach out to with their concerns; pupils are able to take responsibility and are proactive in decision making, their views are listen to; there is a passion for climate change issues across the school and firm understanding of equity. There’s a general positive feeling for achieving gold.

**AGENDA**

**HEADTEACHER REPORT**

**COVID-19**

In line with recent Government announcement, change in guidance for school is expected after the Easter break. That will determine the situation about the prize giving ceremonies and graduation ceremonies, face to face parent nights.

**School Registration**

School is awaiting outcome from placing requests which will then allow it to configurate classes. There were 16 placing requests this year for primary 1.

**Staffing Update**

Mrs Marshall, Mr Smith and Ms McColl have now completed phased return to work and are all back full time. Mr Hay also has a full time contract with Gargieston as of now. He is scheduled for 2 weeks parental leave after Easter holiday, Mrs Hope will step in for P5 class.

**Reporting to parents**

428 reports will be issued on Thursday, those absent on the day will be posted via mail on Friday. Planning to hold parent meetings in May – depending on EAC guidance this might move to face to face meetings. Dependent on the guidance, school would intend to offer a hybrid option – telephone or in person. Snapshot jotters will be sent home 2 weeks prior the parent meetings.

**ECC registration**

Enrolment is now completed. Gargieston received 99 applications for 64 places. There are 22 referrals where places are guaranteed.

**GFG REPORT**

Small amount of funds spent on Easter crafts and activities for the school. There is still enough for contributions towards this year’s P7 party, ties for nursery and P7 leavers. The ideas for more GFG fundraising activity will be raised after Easter break.

**AOB**

**School photos.** Photographer Scott has been booked for individual photos of pupils at school. Sibling group photos might be possible depending on guidance.

**Foam football.** Mrs Dow raised a question about the exclusive use of foam footballs in school grounds. It was confirmed that this is a safe option due to playground being comparatively small and crowded. Leather balls can be used in MUGA.

**ECC transition.** Mr Gourley enquired about actions for P1 transition for nursery children out with the Gargieston. In May, members of P1 classes will visit other nurseries with eligible children to speak to new pupils. Depending on guidance, possibly 2 or 3 visits to school might be offered. Current nursery children in Gargieston are offered soft transition visits to the Base 1 for story time. There is a plan for Transition topic event in May/June, again depending on proposed guidance from Education Department.

**Show Racism Red Card.** Competition has been held at school with judgment being currently executed. Mr Hay’s class entry of song was very inspiring and outstanding. It will soon be accessible via Blog or school Twitter account. Chris Doolan Football Academy put forward a prize for the winners. Entries from school will be put forward towards national competition.

**World Book Day / Book fair fundraising**. This was a very successful fundraising events – sponsored reading raised more than £4100 and book fair commission exceeded £2700. Funds will be spent on literacy resources for ECC and school. It is intended to buy paper copies of Bug Club books, non-fiction books for p5-7 classes, spell checker tools. There are 12 books still waiting to be distributed, with apologies these should reach children by Friday.

**Bike sheds maintenance.** It was proposed that P7 representatives takes up an initiative to contact facilities management department for power washing the bike sheds.

**PC Chair post.** Mrs Jaconelli will stand down as Chair at the end of this year. Applications for post are welcomed and guidance and support will be provided.

Meeting closed at 8pm.

Next meeting date 16th May.

To contact the parent council please email:

gargiestonparentcouncil@gmail.com