**Gargieston Primary School and Early Childhood Centre**

**Minutes of Parent Council Meeting**

**Monday 26th September 2022**

**7pm-8pm**

**Present:** Dovile Connor, Katie Ryan, Lesley Campbell, Julie McKee, Shona Lawson, Cllr Adams, Cherith Long, Susan Wilson, Jenny McPartland, Gillian Hudson, Jennifer Evans, Judith Wilson, Louise Hunter, Nikki Cowan, Sidra Ahmad, Jennifer Stewart, Mrs Murray, Roddy Gourlay, Kirsty Dow.

 *(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:** Cllr Linton, Julie Work

**AGM**

Julie Jaconelli joined the meeting to read out the annual report from session 2021/2022.

Julie is stepping down from the role of chair and proposed Dovile Connor and Katie Ryan as joint chair. Susan Wilson seconded and position filled.

Katie Ryan proposed Lesley Campbell as new secretary, seconded by Susan Wilson.

Cherith Long and Sidra Ahmad have asked to join the Parent Council. This was approved by Suzanne Wilson and Nikki Cowan respectively.

With all posts filled, Julie Jaconelli left the meeting.

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

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

Proposed by Dovile Connor, seconded by Jenny McPartland. Minutes adopted.

**OUTSTANDING ISSUES REVIEW**

**Storage of items in changing rooms**

There are still tables and a piano needing moved some can get back to using the changing rooms. Plenty of discussion about offering for free on social media. Susan Wilson offered a van to collect the items and dispose of them correctly.

**AGENDA**

**CLLR LINTON**

On the 26th of August I was delighted to be invited to the school for their Celebration of Burns event. Both the quality of recitation and warmth of welcome from the school blew me away. I sent on some information on free Bikeability training to the schools earlier in the term and was delighted that the school already had this covered. It was great to see so many children out and about on their bikes during the summer so its great that the school actively supports safe cycling. I attended a couple of Police Scotland surgeries over recent weeks at Bonnyton Community Centre. These surgeries are open to all who wish to engage with the police. Anti-Social youth behaviour was the key issue raised. In early September, I organised a trip to Rugby Park for the children of Gatehead and they brought good luck to the team as they recorded their first win of the season. We could look at doing this for GPS if the children were interested? I can organise free tickets but there would be a requirement for some responsible adults to accompany the children. I could also organise a visit to the school with the Championship Trophy? There have been some issues raised over litter from local residents, when I have been down to the school I have not found any evidence that this is from the school but we could look at developing a litter pick?

**HEADTEACHER REPORT**

Sadly, I am starting our AGM for the second year in a row by paying tribute to two vibrant, beautiful and courageous young women from our Gargieston community who have tragically passed away since the beginning of the term. Cassie McPhail, devoted Mum to Finlay and Beth, passed away at the end of August following a long battle with cancer and Eileen Speirs, devoted Mum to Charlotte and Ben, at the beginning of September following a short battle with cancer.

I would like to thank our children and their families for the kindness and compassion they have shown these families during this time and I am confident that this support will continue in the difficult weeks and months ahead.

Questions have been asked of us regarding fundraising for the Hospice. We feel that this is not the time to launch into a big fundraiser when the sense of loss is still so raw. With their permission, we will do something when the time is right for the families. However, we have organised a staff collection for the Ayrshire Hospice in memory of these two ladies.

**Staffing**

Miss Lamont & Miss Gordon are our New Qualified Teachers (NQT’s). We welcome back Mr Dearie as well as Mrs Kerr returning from maternity leave. Mrs MaGahon joins the team whilst Miss Feighan is covering Mrs Green’s leave. Mrs Bloomfield’s long term absence continues with Mrs Johnston covering and providing targeted support. Mrs Hope is backfilling class and support commitments of Deputy Head vacancy. We are interviewing on Thursday for the post. Congratulations to Mrs Hamilton who had a baby boy called James.

**ECC**

64 places are full and we continue to have a lengthy waiting list. We are aware of press reports following an unannounced visit from Environmental Health. Not related to staff but related to physical layout of the building. Facilities management already been in to arrange works to be completed during October Holidays.

**Establishment Improvement Plan**

Priorities for session 22-23 are as follows; Raising attainment in Literacy – Mrs Lawson, Raising attainment in Numeracy – Mrs Griffiths, HWB – Refresh of vision & values, House system, partnerships & community – Mrs McKee and Developing Creativity – Mr Hay

**PEF Update**

We have 2 x full time Classroom Assistants (Mrs O’Callaghan & Miss Houston) and targeted support from Mrs Johnstone. All P1s have received a homework pack & home packs for targeted children have been organised. £500 invested in Seasons for Growth resources to support families through change and loss.

**Finance**

Information on School Fund Spend from 21-22

* School Ties (P1/S1) - £504.00
* Easter Activities - £386.66
* Piano - £ 564.30
* Sports equipment, competition entries, Sports Day resources – approx. £800
* Science resources - £100

Balances at 05/09/2022

General Fundraising - £3880.82 and Creativity - £1041.50

Pupil progress meetings face-to-face on Thursday 13th October also incorporating community partnerships event and P7 Residential fundraiser.

So far on the Homework consultation – P1 & P2 – 61 responses (55%) P3 – P7 145 responses (46%) Wide range of opinions will be taken into consideration when reviewing homework strategy. Good mandate for change. For trips the school will try to subsidise where possible to keep costs down for families. We aim to book trips in advance and upload them onto ParentPay to allow parents to pay up over time.

This year’s Panto, we have made the decision to take P6 & P7 to Palace Theatre. Optional for children to attend trip or stay in school. £15 per head including bus. Parent helpers to pay for their own ticket (£11). We are welcoming to the school M&M productions for P1-5 last day of term - £3 per child which is now on ParentPay

**AOB**

**GFG**

Christmas cards are being done in school. GFG most welcome to organise a Halloween Disco. Unlikely to do a Christmas disco although will have a Christmas fayre.

Meeting closed at 8pm

Next meeting to be confirmed but will take be in school, with those mot able to make it dialing in on Teams.

To contact the parent council please email:

gargiestonparentcouncil@gmail.com