**Gargieston Primary School and Early Childhood Centre**

**Minutes of Parent Council Meeting**

**Tuesday 17th January 2023**

**7pm-8.10pm**

**Present:** Dovile Connor, Katie Ryan, Lesley Campbell, Julie McKee, Shona Lawson, Cllr Adams, Cherith Long, Judith Wilson, Mrs Wharton, Roddy Gourlay, Louise Hunter, Fozia Ahmad, Kirsty Dow, Sidra Ahmad, Jenny McPartland, Susan Wilson, Julie Work, Gillian McCallum

**Introduction**

Dovile welcomed everyone with a special mention and hello to Mrs Wharton our new Deputy Head Teacher.

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

Minutes from Parent Council meeting dated Tuesday 15th November are said to be an accurate representation of events.

Proposed by Louise Hunter, seconded by Roddy Gourlay. Minutes adopted.

**OUTSTANDING ISSUES REVIEW**

Parking & Safety – no further updates regarding traffic wardens although we do see them now and again. JRSOs to send out parking and safety reminders.

**AGENDA**

**Library**

The library is opening and we are in the process of getting it ready with cards in books and new books being categorised. We are looking at organising author visits.

**Roon the Toon**

The famous Roon the Toon is back in June 2023. We are looking to submit a Gargieston team again as we did last year to raise funds for the school. It is a team of 10. Anybody who wants to run please contact Gargieston Parent Council.

**GFG**

Some parents have been asking about P7 photos – these will be taken as part of the school photographs. Tea Towels are being organised for March – something the children and parents have missed the last few years. No concrete plans for any discos at present.

**HEADTEACHER’S REPORT**

**Homework Policy**

New homework Policy implemented, and it will be reviewed in 6 months ready for August 2023.

**School App**

East Ayrshire Council have announced hot off the press that they will be moving away from School App and towards Safer Schools App which is undergoing some changes to adapt to Scottish schools.

**School Roll**

Current school roll – 421

Primary 1 Enrolment took place online last week. 47 children within the catchment area which is 7 more than last year. Placing request information will be gathered soon. ECC Enrolment will open online on 27th Feb and close on 12th March. There are no plans to increase provision at Gargieston ECC – approximately 40 places available for allocation.

**Staffing Update**

Welcome to our new Depute Head Teacher, Mrs Wharton, who joined the staff in November and attends our meeting this evening. Mrs Dunlop, our new permanent Principal Teacher, joined the staff team yesterday which now gives us a complete leadership team for the first time this session. Mrs Jamieson, Support Assistant, joined us in December on a short-term basis until June 2023.

**Wellbeing Support for Children**

With a full Leadership team and enhanced Support Assistant allocation through use of our PEF budget, we are now able to organise more clubs and groups for children to attend during lunchtime to support children who find the playground overwhelming or stressful. DHT’s are currently working on this with our Support Assistants.

**COGS**

COGS stands for Collecting Opinions to Grow our School. These will be pupil groups which will be held on a Wednesday afternoon and give children at all stages of the school the opportunity to contribute to a variety of aspects of school improvement. The first 6-week block will start on 22nd February.

**Finance**

Expenditure: Transport cost for Climate Conference, JRSO Conference and Day of Dance - £213.16, School Fayre expenses (craft materials, ice cream, selection boxes - £733.15, Resources for Electives - £93.55, Literacy resources (dictionaries, storage & books) - £558.55.

Income: Christmas Fayre – £3598.00, Christmas Cards – GFG, Beauty & the Beast - £1318

**Local Authority Learning Visit**

This will take place on Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th January. A team of three visiting the school which will consist of an Education Officer, an Education Scotland Attainment Advisor, and a Head Teacher from another East Ayrshire School. Their focus will be on QI 2.3 (Learning, Teaching and Assessment) and QI 3.1 Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion. The format will consist of HT presentation and evidence on the two themes above, class visits, staff dialogue, pupil dialogue and parent dialogue. We request any volunteers to meet with Derek Forsyth on Wednesday 25th January at 2.30pm in school. Any feedback will be given to HT, and this will be shared with staff and PTC (at our next meeting)**.** This visit is a very similar format to Education Scotland Recovery Visit.

**COUNCILLOR ADAMS UPDATE**

**Happy New Year**

A very Happy New Year to the teachers, classroom assistants, janitors, volunteers, parents and pupils of the school. It is perhaps worth acknowledging the excellent work that goes on at the school. Before the holidays I had the privilege of attending the Christmas Fare, the early years nativity, the primary nativity and the P6/7 Beauty and the Beast musical. Well done to everyone concerned as each of the shows and events were excellent.

**Community Asset Transfers (CAT)**

Within the Howard Park there are two properties that are going to cabinet tomorrow. They are the former Howard Park Bowling Club and the former Old Mans Cabin. The former Bowling Club has plans to be transformed into a tennis facility which I view as very positive and will support. The Old Mans Cabin proposal is from the Kilmarnock Railway Heritage Trust, and they have asked that there is a change of use to become a counselling centre and coffee shop. I have asked that this motion is opposed. My reason for this is that since my appointment I have received no communication from the council or the trust on this development and I would not be in a position to make an informed opinion. I would welcome a coffee shop but would question why the trust could not use the railway station (which has parking) for counselling.

**Anti Social Behaviour**

I have been contacted by several residents in relation to anti social behaviour and specifically graffiti. I have contacted Police Scotland and they have asked that when a crime if committed it should be reported and as such it will be given a crime reference number and followed up. The best way to report a crime is on the Police Scotland web site or call 101.

As previously discussed, please feel free to forward my details around the school group and follow up.

**AOB**

Next meeting to be held in the school on Tuesday 28th March at 7pm.

To contact the parent council please email: [gargiestonparentcouncil@gmail.com](about:blank)