

Carolside Primary School Parent Council Minutes – 22nd March 2016

Agenda Item	Minute	Action
1. Attendees and Apologies	<p>Present: Josh Hahn (JH) (Chair), Carol Frew (CF) (CPS Head Teacher), Elaine Milne (EM) (CPS), Alasdair McDonald (AMcD) (CPS).</p> <p>In attendance: Jim Creelman (JC), Alison Woodman (AW), Debi Hosie, Laura McNulty (LMcN), Kirsteen Lappin, Poushali Majumdar, John McMaster, Lynsey Cochrane, PTA Representatives</p> <p>Apologies: Debby Stewart, John Connor, Maryam Imran, Councilor Lafferty</p>	
2. Welcome and Introductions	<p>JH welcomed all present to the meeting. It was noted that the previous minutes had been published on March 14th and were approved electronically.</p>	
3. Head Teacher's Report	<p>CF gave a comprehensive report, which is attached - Appendix A. Additionally CF advised that building works that had been due to start in January would now be taking place during the summer holidays with expected completion in August. These works will also include refurbishment of the existing dining area. CF also asked those present for general feedback on the recent STEM Fayre. All comments made were positive. Feedback from the wider parental group is still in the process of being collated.</p>	
4. PTA Update	<p>The PTA has again been busy this term. Items include: <u>Family Ceilidh</u> - this was a great success and everyone appeared to have had a terrific evening. <u>Disco / movie nights</u> - possibly May, dates tbc <u>Summer Fayre</u> - arranged for Saturday 4th June. PTA are looking for volunteers, anyone wishing to volunteer should contact the PTA. <u>I-pads</u> - 5 more i-pads have been funded (now 15 in total) <u>P1 Playground improvements</u> - noted that funding for this has been carried forward from last year <u>Class trips</u> - funding for trips has now been increased from £200 per year group to £300. <u>Swimming Lessons & Secret Garden</u> have both been funded this term too and the P7 ties and leavers celebrations will continue to be funded. An information leaflet is also currently being produced to</p>	

	<p>be issued to all parents in due course.</p> <p>CF showed the group some new uniform ideas from Gilmour Sports. These were given to the PTA to be shown and discussed at their next meeting.</p> <p>LMcN noted that at the Christmas Fayre the teachers had worked really hard, particularly in the Games Room.</p>	
<i>5. School Improvement Plan / Standards and Qualities</i>	<p>This has been previously issued electronically. No further comments were made.</p>	
<i>6. MACS</i>	<p>JH intimated that a previous issue had raised some questions about MACS. He asked how attached to the school they were to which CF reported that whilst they work in co-operation with each other MACS is run completely independently. MACS are approved by ERC, have their own policies and procedures and are inspected independently by the Care Inspectorate. Any issues about their service must be sent directly to them and not to the school.</p>	
<i>7. PC Chairs Meeting</i>	<p>JH attended this and reported a generally quiet meeting. The main point was concerning the Scottish Governments decision to introduce standardised testing as part of the National Framework Agreement across all schools. The aim of these is to close the attainment gap and help disadvantaged families. A discussion followed about the use of standardised tests in schools. ERC have used them for many years and CF stated that they are very useful to the school, cluster schools and the council. It is unsure at this stage how the proposed tests would work with the current ERC testing.</p> <p>JH also intimated to those present that the Chair of WWHS has asked if he could attend a future Carolside meeting to discuss parental involvement. It was agreed that this was acceptable – JH to arrange.</p>	JH
<i>8. Parental Participation Leaflet</i>	<p>The school management team have created a leaflet about Parental Participation in the school. A draft version was shown to those present for discussion. Comments on layout and content were raised and will be addressed by the management team before the leaflet is issued to the wider school community.</p>	CF/EM/AMcD
<i>9. Crossing Patrols</i>	<p>DH raised concerns about the lack of crossing patrols at the corner of Sundale Avenue and Daleview Drive. This is a very busy area and is difficult for children to cross particularly at peak times.</p> <p>CF suggested speaking to Greg Brown and/or Lorraine Lawrie from ERC and offered to do this on behalf of Carolside parents.</p>	CF
<i>10. Libraries Sub-Group</i>	<p>This group continue to meet every Friday. The new books are currently being logged into the Dewey system. New furniture has arrived, artwork has been put up and the library is now starting to look good though there is still a requirement for more new books.</p>	

	AW is in the process of completing a lottery grant application. EW noted that monies from the recent Book Fayre had still to be spent.	
11. <i>Employability Skills Sub-Group</i>	At the last meeting it had been agreed to trial the employability workshop with p7b. Group discussion scenarios were currently being created and would hopefully be ready to use by the end of April. AMcD said the group had worked really hard to create very good scenarios and had used a good mix of skills.	
12. <i>Equalities Forum</i>	No update available. CF stated that 'International Day' would go ahead on May 25 th . This would allow pupils to experience a variety of different foods and cultures and to celebrate diversity.	
13. <i>Travel Plan Sub-Group</i>	This group continues to work hard and are preparing for the upcoming ' <i>Keep the Red Zone Clear Day</i> ' which is due to take place on May 20 th . JC commented on teaching staff and MACS staff parking in the red zone areas and asked if staff could be asked not to do so on May 20 th . CF stated that this is a school initiative for parents and not for staff and whilst it was agreed to ask staff to respect this it could not be enforced. CF also noted that it was not staff cars that were causing the congestion at peak times. LC suggested using the nursery car park for additional space but CF said this is not an option open to the school staff. JC has been in contact with David Cunningham (Community Police) who have agreed to support this initiative and will provide additional assistance the week before and on the day itself. Also contact with Greg Brown (ERC) who has been very supportive. Suggested Bikeability could be done the same week and suggested the use of pedometers for year group challenges - ? The JRSO's have been working hard in their 'William the Wolf' campaign. They plan to create a double sided air freshener which would carry the Red Zone message on one side. A competition is planned with the winning message being carried on the other side. JC commented that the Red Zone Day would be fully non-confrontational but hoped it would send out the correct message to those who need to drive to school. AW suggested contacting the local Crossing Patrol staff to discuss the initiative with them and hopefully get them on board. CF asked if it would be worthwhile reissuing the Red Zone map to parents. Group commented that it is not always parents that are breaching this but could be grandparents / other carers / child minders etc. so they need to be made aware of the red zones too.	CF

	JC noted that the Travel Plan is continual and should be issued and reiterated every year.	
<i>14. Vacancies</i>	<p>There are still currently vacancies for p3, p4, p6 and p7 members within the PC. Anyone wishing to be involved should contact JH.</p> <p>CF suggested some members of the PC may wish to be present at the upcoming parent consultation meetings to encourage new members. Anyone interested in helping out should contact JH who will arrange with the office to have a table set up.</p>	JH
<i>15. AOB</i>	<p>The PTA asked about the feasibility of combining the PC and the PTA due to dwindling numbers in both groups. CF stated that the wider school community would have to be consulted before this could happen and then if agreed the constitutions for both groups would require to be amended / updated.</p> <p>CF suggested that perhaps the teachers could ask for more volunteers at next years 'Meet the Teacher' evenings and also at the upcoming Parent Consultation Evenings to gather more support for both groups.</p> <p>It was noted that parents needed to be made aware of the good work both groups do for the school and in particular the difference the PTA funding makes within the school.</p>	CF/ AMcD
<i>16. Next Meeting</i>	The next meeting of the Parent Council will take place on 24 th May at 7pm.	

Building

- Building works for the new dining hall extension will now begin in the summer and will be completed for August.
- Replacement windows are being fitted this term in a number of classrooms as part of the school building improvement programme.
- New carpets have been fitted in the school office and meeting rooms in the school.

Staffing

- Mrs Rennie is currently on maternity leave and P6b is being covered by Miss Farrell.
- Mrs Connick has moved to Calderwood Lodge Primary as PT. Mrs Gillian Friel has taken over as Acting DHT until the summer.
- Mrs Armour will teach P2c from the start of May until the end of June while Mrs Johannesen goes on maternity leave.

Curriculum and School News

- The children and staff in the Nursery have thoroughly enjoyed the Come In and Play Days and are looking forward to hosting future events.
- The PFA has raised a fantastic amount of money which will be used to enhance both the outdoor area and resources in the playrooms. Scotplay is installing an outdoor play train in the Nursery grounds this week and an opening ceremony will soon follow.
- Staff have been working hard to prepare the Cabin for spring. Mr Magee very kindly built planters using pallets and the children have been working hard to plant a variety of seeds. The Nursery staff and children are also very grateful to the local tree surgeon who donated bark and also to the parents and carers who donated a variety of bird feeders and sand.
- Miss Davidson is looking forward to starting a Gardening Club with the children. The aim of the project is to redevelop areas of the outdoor playground and will include planters, an outdoor kitchen and opportunities for outdoor expressive arts.
- During term 3 Primary 1s have enjoyed a range of activities and have learned many new skills.
- During Financial Education week children had the opportunity to learn about, and use, money. They had fun recognising coins and enjoyed using these in a pretend shop. They used ICT to calculate change within 10 pence.
- P1 pupils participated in a variety of activities during STEM week. They learned about what a seed needs to grow and planted cress seeds in individual greenhouses. These were hanging in our dining hall and every day pupils observed their growth and changes in the seeds.
- P1 science topic this term is 'The Senses' and the children have taken part in a range of experiments and investigations.
- In technology the pupils were given the task of building the tallest free-standing tower. In groups they worked together to build towers out of a variety of construction materials. This was great fun!
- The PTA has kindly funded an outdoor Play Hut which is being installed this week in the P1 playground. The children are very much looking forward to using it.
- P7 visited P1 and brought maths games they had created to help us build upon their addition and subtraction skills. The children were thoroughly engaged and they hope to have another chance to do this again.
- P2 children enjoyed the range of events they were involved in during the STEM Fair. They had visits from Dr Royle and Mr Noor to their classes, where they learned about the role of a general practitioner and how an eye test is carried out. They made kaleidoscopes and

pitched instruments using junk materials. The children had great fun taking part in the Sumdog challenge and maths relays.

- P3 had a very successful educational trip to Amazonia where they enjoyed a range of experiences linked to their work on the Rainforest. They designed a paper spinner in technology and took part in a treasure hunt and outdoor games in maths. P3 researched the life of Alexander Bell and enjoyed a visit from Think Science. They thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the Planetarium with Mr Davis.
- P4 children have had a really busy and enjoyable term. During Finance Week, the children explored money, change, shopping and had great fun completing a 'Come Dine with Me' challenge.
- STEM week was a great success throughout the school and P4 was no exception. They completed a Dyson challenge where their imaginations were put to the test as they had to select and improve an existing product. Their designs did not disappoint and we may well have the future Mr Dyson in our midst.
- As part of the ongoing topic on Carnival of the Animals, P4 children have been designing animal hats as part of a parade to the P1-3 pupils next week.
- Also next week, the P4s will be leading the Easter Service at Greenbank church by singing and reciting spring poems.
- The first block of swimming lessons for P4a and P4d went really well and the pupils gained a great deal from the experience. The second block is now underway. Our thanks, once again, to the PTA for enabling this to happen.
- P5 have had a busy month! For World Book Day they enjoyed dressing up as characters from their favourite books, discussing the books they had brought in.
- They enjoyed taking part in a stage story where they got to write a section of a story and pass it on the next stage to be continued. They have enjoyed hearing these read out at assemblies.
- For STEM week they enjoyed taking part in a variety of exciting maths activities, including a Treasure Hunt.
- In technologies and engineering they used the design process to design and build castles with a moving part.
- In sciences they participated in scientific experiments about heart rate and they created fruity batteries. They also really enjoyed a visit to the Science Centre where they got to take part in water filtration experiments in The Lab. They also got to see a fantastic show called Water, Water Everywhere.
- In addition we have been finding out about the key figures, events and battles in the Scottish Wars of Independence.
- P6 pupils had a very successful outing to New Lanark last week to enhance their studies within the learning context, The Victorians. They have been researching working conditions for Victorian children and have been comparing and contrasting their own lives with those of their Victorian counterparts.
- P6 children are following up their STEM Fair activities with the Williamwood Cluster K'Nex Challenge this week. Children are working in pairs to meet a challenge and the winning pair from each class will go through to the heat at Williamwood on 27th April.
- The children are also looking forward to beginning their Bikeability training and are bringing in their bicycles this week so that the Bikeability assessors can check that they are roadworthy.
- The transition process for P7 pupils is well underway with Mr Inglis (Head Teacher) and Mr Hannah (Depute Head Teacher) visiting each class last week to talk about life at Williamwood and to answer the children's many questions. Everyone was particularly interested to hear that their new school day will begin at 20 to 9 each morning! All three

cluster primary schools will come together for the cluster Sports Day at Williamwood on 20th April.

- P7 pupils hosted two guests from the Royal Observatory who brought with them the meteorite collection on loan from the Tim Peake Project. Inspired by the collection, the children researched meteors, meteorites and meteoroids and prepared a presentation in groups which they then delivered to each class in the school.
- Charity work this term includes a donation of £501 from World Book Day for Book Aid International, running a Fairtrade stall raising over £400 for the Fairtrade Committee, Brain Tumour and Sport Relief raising £425.98 for each charity. Well done to all involved.
- Parent Consultation Evenings take place on Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th March.
- Our Spring Service takes place on Friday 1st April at 9.45am. P4 parents are invited to attend.
- Term 4 begins again on Monday 18th April at 9.00am.

Staff Training and Professional Development this term include

- Staff training this term includes Mindset, ActivExpression, Digital Literacy, Moderation, Pastoral Notes and LAGAN.