

Carolside Primary School Parent Council Minutes - 26th January 2016

<i>Agenda Item</i>	<i>Minute</i>	<i>Action</i>
<i>1. Attendees and Apologies</i>	<p>Present: Josh Hahn (JH) (Chair)</p> <p>Carol Frew (CF) (Head Teacher), Elaine Milne (EM) (CPS), Alasdair McDonald (AMcD) (CPS), Stephanie Hughes (SH)</p> <p>In attendance: John McMaster, Lynsey Cochrane (LC), Maryam Imran (MI), Jim Creelman (JC), Alison Woodman (AW), Poushali Majumdar (PM), PTA Representatives, Councilor Lafferty</p> <p>Apologies: Deby Stewart (DS), John Connor, Kirsteen Lappin, Alison Adams-Young, Laura McNulty (LMcN), Debi Hosie (DH).</p>	
<i>2. Welcome and Introductions</i>	JH welcomed all present to the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. He noted that attendance was dangerously low and if all members could make an effort to attend future meetings that would be appreciated.	
<i>3. Minutes from Previous Meeting</i>	<p>Minutes from the previous meeting were previously issued to all PC members and were agreed.</p> <p>Action – to turn around minutes more quickly with a target of a week from the meeting</p>	JH/AW
<i>4. Busby Family Centre</i>	Update from Councilor Lafferty. Planning permission was approved for the Cartmill Family Centre and works will go ahead as planned. Consideration was given to residents options put forward but these were considered more dangerous than what is currently proposed. Dates for completion are to be confirmed but Council Lafferty was hopeful it would be open for the start of the next session.	
<i>5. Head Teachers Report</i>	CF gave a comprehensive report, which is attached as Appendix A	
<i>6. Libraries Sub-Committee</i>	Update from AW. The sub group has looked at various grant applications and generally we are not in a position to apply for the majority given we are not deemed to be in need due to our high attainment and low deprivation. The group has undertaken to apply for a book recycling scheme which could benefit the school over a long	AW

	<p>period of time. The group are currently meeting every Friday afternoon for an hour in the library to catalogue and organize the new books and furniture. An invitation is extended to anyone who would like to assist with this. The Council agreed to donate the sum of £449, their yearly budget, to the library for the purchase of books.</p>	
<p><i>8. Employability Sub-Committee</i></p>	<p>Update from LC. Meeting held in January to discuss Williamwood cluster employability skills framework and to plan interactive workshops to develop these skills in the upper school. The workshops would involve input from class teachers and from parents. There are 6 to 8 key skills and P6/7 teachers are to look at this in more detail and give feedback to the group next month. It is proposed that employability skills will be incorporated throughout the curriculum and homework programmes. The aim is for workshops to be as interactive as possible, e.g. mock interviews and producing CVs in advance, optimising pupil engagement.</p> <p>AMcD noted that LC, PM and DS had put in allot of work into this prior to their initial meeting in December. The Cluster group 3/18 had looked at profiles and tracked 8 targets. We are therefore perfectly targeted to get involved directly with P7.</p> <p>PM noted that allot of the information extracted had come from the children themselves but they didn't know it.</p> <p>The group will tie in to the Careers Fayre later in the year where Employability Skills can be integrated.</p>	<p>LC</p>
<p><i>9. Traffic Management</i></p>	<p>Jim Creelman attended this meeting on behalf of the Traffic Management Sub-committee. The Travel Plan is being reviewed and will be updated by the end of this term. It will also appear on the schools website.</p> <p>JC has tried to contact PC Cunningham on several occasions but with no success. JC will talk to him before the next meeting. JC met with Mr Hull and was updated on developments in the school by the JRSO's and Eco Committee. A mascot, William the Wolf, designed by P6 pupil, has been selected to be used to publicise safety around the school.</p> <p>JC is to re-establish meeting of the sub-group on Fridays at 1pm. Mrs Hughes will be invited to join the group. JC to contact the school office to arrange this and also local community wardens.</p> <p>JC noted that the school website currently states the</p>	<p>JC and Sub Committee</p>

	<p>traffic subgroup is a PTA group. This is to be amended to Parent Council.</p> <p>Red Zone parking maps to be reissued to the whole school and the school will print them. Social Media and emails can also be used to communicate this. Mr Hull to relocate the Map on the website and perhaps onto the Home Page.</p> <p>Suggestion made to have maps at each gate but this was not supported. William the Wolf patrols also suggested.</p> <p>The weather was highlighted as a factor in trying to get kids to school. Survey results indicate that 70% would walk if the weather was better.</p> <p>JC proposed a one day “No Parking in Red Zone” initiative which could possibly be linked to a Fit and Fruity Friday and national initiatives to walk to school. The day would involve allot of planning, marketing and publicity with parents and community wardens assisting. The Pedometer Challenge could also be linked to this with many of the children being provided with pedometers. Suggestion to record pollution levels on a day with no cars may be possible to show the impact such an initiative can have. The meeting supported this proposal and Mrs Frew suggested a date of 20 May 2016.</p> <p>Action – Re-establish Friday meetings Action –Update Schools website and reissue Red Zone maps Action – Take forward No Parking Day</p>	
<p>10. <i>Equalities Sub-committee</i></p>	<p>MI provided a comprehensive Equalities update and this is attached in Appendix B.</p>	<p>MI</p>
<p>11. <i>Allergies</i></p>	<p>LC raised a concern over several incidents of failed protocols around the management of allergies. Mrs Frew confirmed that in each case, of which there were two individual issues, the issues were addressed immediately by staff and directly with the parents of the pupils concerned. The third incident related to the issue of dogs within the playground. It was confirmed by the Management Team that the school tries to be as tight as it can be around these issues and holds initiatives on such things as kiwi and nut free practices constantly.</p> <p>Mrs Frew also re-assured all that the school takes these issues very seriously and that they were disappointed this had happened. The school have recently been</p>	<p>Mrs Frew</p>

	<p>commended on their practices in the latest review undertaken. Specialist staff, not only teachers, were part of this review who commented positively on the procedures that particularly the nursery currently has.</p> <p>The school has taken on board the issues that have occurred and are learning from them to ensure they do not recur and to minimise risks moving forward. A note regarding the no dogs being allowed in the playground is to be added to the next newsletter.</p> <p>Action – Newsletter to contain reiteration of ban on dogs in the playground.</p>	
12. <i>Bike Racks</i>	<p>AW asked if the school had bike racks as there were bikes and scooters being left on railings at the P2/P4 exist. Mrs Frew confirmed racks are located at the P3 playground area and are well used. She is to look into the possibility of getting more for other areas of the playground.</p>	Mrs Frew
13. <i>Children's Sports Clothing</i>	<p>LC asked a question regarding clothing for PE as it appears some P1 classes may be not changing for gym. Mrs Frew to pass to Mrs Connick and confirmed this could possibly be better dealt with by a phone call directly to the school rather than at the Parent Council.</p>	
14. <i>P1 Trip</i>	<p>LC raised an issue with the P1 trip where only 1 bus turned up for the children. It was noted by LC that some children were confused by this and the school did not communicate this to parents. Mrs Frew noted that the trip was booked some time ago by a member of staff no longer at Carolside and there was a miscommunication. This was however rectified on the day so there was not an issue.</p> <p>Mrs Frew again reiterated that if individual parents have issues they should contact the school directly.</p>	
14. <i>Communication Issues and Protocol</i>	<p>Miss Milne noted parents should be encouraged at every opportunity to contact the school directly should they have any concerns.</p> <p>General point noted that the Parent Council is not a forum to raise complaints from individual parents.</p> <p>JH noted that there is pressure on the council members to raise things from other parents. This was confirmed by other members.</p> <p>Mrs Frew responded by confirming that any issue raised by an individual would receive a response from the</p>	JH & Mrs Frew

school within 24 hours and if required a meeting within a week. AMcD noted the school would always deal with issues on an individual basis and not in a group forum.

JH agreed to issue a note to all PC members on this and also noted that social media can be a difficult thing to manage. It was also noted Facebook was a positive and informative forum for working parents.

Mrs Frew noted that staff on social media must be respectfully and professional at all times and asked respectfully if members could do the same.

The definition of a 'Collective Issue' which can be brought to the Parent Council was discussed. It was noted that this can be challenging to manage and define. Social Media is a learning curve for us all.

The meeting agreed any issues would be raised with Josh in the first instance to establish whether it is an individual or a collective issue.

AMcD noted we should publicise the Parent Council's achievements and positive contribution to the wider school more.

Post Meeting note from the Mgt Team

Using Parents as Partners Toolkit and documentation, our Parent Council objectives should include:

- * Working in partnership with the school to create a welcoming and inclusive ethos.
- * Promoting partnership between the school, pupils and all parents.
- * Developing and engaging in activities which support education and the welfare of pupils
- * Identifying and representing the views of parents on the education provided by the school and other matters affecting the education and welfare of pupils.

Generally the Parent Council is a forum established for the purpose of supporting whole school improvement however, it is appropriate and relevant for issues which may have a significant impact on the school's improvement planning (as detailed in the School Improvement Plan 2015/2016) to be raised.

<p><i>11. PTA Update</i></p>	<p>The PTA representatives noted various items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Fayre raised approx £5,700 and had a great turn out. • There will be February Discos and film nights for the older years. • Ceilidh is scheduled for 19 March. • Car boot sale will possibly go ahead. <p>The volunteers issue has been resolved and it was confirmed that the staff have allocated managers to attend all events.</p> <p>JH noted that parent volunteers should be encouraged to volunteer with their children to get more helpers. Also MACs can run a crèche which could possibly help with this. The sports club does not have an issue with volunteers as they are assisting along with their kids participating.</p>	
<p><i>12. Vacancies</i></p>	<p>There is a new vacancy for P4 and vacancies for a P3, P6 and P7 member within the PC remain.</p>	
<p><i>13. AOB</i></p>	<p>Mrs Frew tabled plans of the new Games Hall for information.</p> <p>Next meeting: Tuesday 22 March 2016</p>	

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

Tuesday 26th January 2016

Building

- Building works for the new dining hall extension will be underway soon.
- Replacement windows will be fitted this term in a number of classrooms as part of the school building improvement programme.

Staffing

- Mrs McCandlish is currently on maternity leave and P3b is being covered by Mrs Stephen.
- Mrs Knak is working in school two days a week, in place of Mrs Stephen, supporting pupils across a range of classes.
- Mrs Connick is now back at work on a full time basis after a long period of ill health.

Curriculum and School News

- All Carols and Shortbread Concerts and Nativity performances in December were very well attended and appreciated by parents and family members. Our children and staff worked very hard and enjoyed each event.
- £1200 was donated through ticket sales for the children's chosen charity -Oxfam.
- The nursery children took great pride in their performance of Whoops-a-Daisy Angel.
- We are currently focusing on Robert Burns and Scotland and will soon progress on to learning about Chinese New Year.
- As part of their learning in literacy and English, the nursery children are learning about rhyming words.
- Within numeracy and mathematics, the children are learning about mathematical language and are applying this to real life contexts, e.g. 'two more children' or 'one less pen'.
- The children and staff in the nursery are extremely grateful for the recent resource order which was purchased using Toy Fund monies.
- P1 have settled in well after the holidays and have enjoyed a trip to the Transport Museum.
- They have been learning Scottish poems and enjoyed a Burns Party where they got to wear tartan.
- Primary 2 have been learning about Burns Day linked to their topic about Scotland.
- The children are enjoying the new play zones in the P2 playground. They are keeping active and are starting to devise new games and activities with the equipment.
- The P2 classes are staying healthy by brushing their teeth after lunch every day.
- Primary 3 are enjoying their term 3 topic about the Rainforest. They are looking forward to visiting Amazonia in March.
- They are enjoying making art and craft animals from paper and linking their learning about food chains in Science.
- Christmas in Primary 4 was great fun. Carols and Shortbread was a great success with many parents sending positive feedback to the school following the concert.
- The Mary's Meals project resulted in 108 backpacks being collected on the first day back in January to be taken to Malawi. The amount of clothes, shoes, toiletries and stationery donated by families was amazing.

- This term P4 pupils are excited to have started a new interdisciplinary learning topic which includes music, art and design, literacy, and technologies. This is based around the Michael Morpurgo novel 'The Butterfly Lion'.
- Some Primary 4 pupils have opted to join the successful P5/6 choir – rehearsals began last week.
- Primary 5 are preparing for their Burns recital and will soon be starting their topic on the Scottish Wars of Independence.
- They have also been enjoying learning about spreadsheets during ICT and have worked on collage during Expressive Arts.
- Primary 6's Fairtrade studies culminated in a Dragons' Den face-off just before the Christmas break. Each team of 4 had to pitch their new Fairtrade product to ruthless dragons Mrs. Frew, Mr. McDonald and Mrs. Friel. The children's understanding of ethical trading was clearly evident and their marketing strategies demonstrated great insight. Well done to Team Sugar Cane Central and their fantastic Fairtrade sugar pitch.
- Friday was Friction and Forces day in Primary 6 as the children rotated around 4 workshop sessions and had the opportunity to take part in a range of practical investigations and observations. Children ended the day by determining their own next steps and further areas for investigation.
- Primary 7 pupils organised and led a traditional Burns' supper yesterday afternoon. Everyone enjoyed a stirring programme of music, poetry and dance and even the haggis, neeps and tatties went down surprisingly well. Xander's 'Toast to the Lassies' and Sophia's 'Toast to the Laddies' led to lively debate.
- All four P7 classes have taken part in East Renfrewshire's Lord Provost Debate and have made full use of their public speaking skills and knowledge of persuasive language. The motions debated included 'This house believes that celebrities are a bad influence on young people' and 'This house believes Brazil should not be allowed to host the 2016 Olympics'. Provost Carmichael's feedback was overwhelmingly positive.
- Feedback, following ER's review of Pupil Support and Protection in December, was exceptionally positive. There are only a few areas identified for development and we are already taking these areas forward. I would like to thank all stakeholders who were involved in completing questionnaires and taking part in focus groups.

Staff Training and Professional Development this term include

- Staff training this term includes Citizen Space, Resilience, Child's Plan, Maximising Attendance, Manual Handling, Moderation, Numeracy and Professional Enquiry.

Carolside Parent Council Meeting – 26/01/2016

Carolside Parents Equalities Groups Input

Prejudice Based Bullying

Forum representative met with school to discuss the concerns raised in forum in relation to islamophobia and racist incidents. The school informed that all prejudice related incidents are tackled under culling and harassment processes in school. The school are also reviewing their antibullying processes inline with the Scottish Governments strategy National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People which will be complete by March 2016. The equalities forum will be supporting the review of prejudice based bullying, if there is any feedback please don't hesitate to contact me.

East Renfrewshire Education Department Equality Forum – 14/01/2016

I attended this meeting which covered:

A presentation by Scotland's branch of Shows Racism the Red Card and the work they carried out in East Renfrewshire Schools. There was feedback for more work to include preschool to primary 4 children and also more awareness needed with parents.

Other schools also discussed good equalities practise, for example Kirkhill Primary has a Japanese Language club. It was feedback there is a need for the forum to give more time for schools to share good equalities practise and to help parents understand what equalities means for parents in schools.

Lastly the meeting raised awareness of the East Renfrewshire Hate Crime Network of local agencies whom have met twice already. The network envisages to tackle Hate Crime in East Renfrewshire.

Forum Activity Update

The forum is currently preparing a proposal for the International Day project/event. We are also still working on progress for the inclusion of all dietary requirements within East Renfrewshire school meals. Furthermore our forum has increased and diversified over the past few months now including parents feeding back from

Arab, Bengali, Chinese, Eastern European, Indian and Pakistani ethnicities, covering Hindu, Islamic and Sikh faiths and speaking languages including Arabic, Bengali, Hindi, Mandarin, Punjabi, Urdu, Ukrainian. Furthermore after receiving a query about additional support needs which was dealt with by the school, there is now a parent supporting the forum with regards to additional support needs.