**Carolside Primary School Parent Council Minutes – 28th November 2017**

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| *Agenda Item* | *Minute* | *Action* |
| *1. Welcome and Apologies* | **Present:**  Bryan McLachlan (BM) (Head Teacher), Jacqueline Dunn (JD) (DHT), Alison Woodman (AW) (Chair), Judith Currie (JC) (Vice Chair), John Connor (JC), Lesley Watson(LW), Ansley Tracy (AT), Jonathan Black (JB), Fiona Hall (FH), Debi Hosie (DH), Susan Lyden (SL), Vanessa Taylor (VT), , Louise Bennion (LB) (PTA), David Fisken (DF)  **Apologies:** Councillor Alan Lafferty, Julia Sargasti (JS) (PTA). Stevie Greer (SG), Alison Cameron (AC), Jacqueline Duckett (JD), Councillor David Macdonald (DM), Lynne Docherty (LD), Kate Campbell ( KC), Rebecca Nicholson (RN) |  |
| *2. Previous Minutes Approval* | Minutes from the previous meeting had been issued in advance to all PC members and were agreed. |  |
| *3. Pupil Council* | Five representatives from the Pupil Council are welcomed to the meeting and proceed to do an excellent Power-point presentation explaining the role of the Pupil Council and their involvement in collecting and sharing the opinions of the Carolside pupils; ensuring pupils’ opinions are included in the establishing of new Visions and Values of the school by collecting and sharing the results of the pupils’ survey.  They then hold a brief, informative and positive Q & A session.  **AW** thanks the Pupil Council for their contribution to tonight’s meeting and acknowledges how confident and able the representatives presented themselves.  **BM** advises that the Pupil Council will return later in the year once the results of all three surveys (staff, pupils & parents) have been collated  **BM** takes the opportunity to invite Parent Council members to the Pupil Council meetings held every second Tuesday at 1.05pm – next meeting is December 5th 2017. |  |
| *4. Music in East Renfrewshire* | **AW** informs meeting that Donaldcan’t be here tonight and that this topic will be discussed at the next meeting. |  |
| *5. Head Teacher’s Report.* | Full report attached from **BM.**  Following from the report **AW** acknowledges the recent high number of staff changes is a concern to parents. **BM** realises this is afrustrating period and would encourage anyone with a concern to meet with himself.  **VT** Asks if BM feels he has more control over how the school is run with the new Governance and autonomy of schools. BM explained that, while HTs have been involved in the national consultation, there has not been detailed discussion regarding the implications at a local level.The new concept claims to offer HTs more control over staffing but it’s complicated in that the Local Authority remain the employer. BM states the major concern is the reduction of the school budget  **Alison Cameron** asks what are the rules for seconded positions and can a HT stop a teacher being seconded out? **BM** explains that the Local Authority approached BM before offering Gillian Friel acting HT at Busby; after 24 months in a seconded role it becomes permanent.  **JB** asks if teachers photos, names and class can be displayed as many P1 parents are unfamiliar with who the teachers are. **BM** suggests a drop-in event for parents to meet the staff in the new year. PC agrees to this suggestion. |  |
| *6. PTA Update* | **Louise Bennion** updates the council.  Funds currently stand at £13,760.  Main focus is the Christmas Fayre. Dress as you please day in exchange for donations to Fayre. Help still required for Saturday. There has been lots of pupil help preparing for the event. P1- P4 made crafts for sale, P5 taken on the task of making items to sell e.g. reindeer dust - previous years this was done by PTA members. P6 & 7 classes received £10 to run their own stall with a prize to the class with biggest ‘profit’. P7 are relishing this task! Sports Club running baking stall.    Still waiting on quote for new stage. Estimate to be about £20,000 for top of the range and plan move forward with staging after Christmas. PTA should have more funds after Christmas. | AW/PTA |
| *7. Traffic Sub-Group Update* | **Stevie Greer** not able to attend meeting.  PC hears there was a police presence around the school and roads last Friday. Hopefully there will be an update on this. | SG |

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| *8. Issues for Discussion* | **East Renfrewshire Budget**  **Judith Currie** attended ERC Budget Consultation Meeting at Williamwood High School and reports back to PC.  Full proposals are on the ERC website.  Background is ERC have saved £37m since 2012 - 2018 (6 years)  Now needs to save another £26m 2018-2021 (3years) already assuming year-on-year increase in Council tax of 3%.  Closing date of consultation is today (28/11/2017) -everyone encouraged to respond if not already done so.  **AW-** voices the concern that these savings will probably project beyond 2021.  Situation is possibly bleaker in other LA and ERC was not penalised for an underspend of £11m last year.  ERCs education budget is around £108m, with a proposal to cut £8.9m including cuts to class assistants and clerical staff. ER as asking how best to make these cuts, which raised a lot of sympathy for teachers and the extra work that will fall to them.  **AW-** Points out the proposal to save £300,000 by reducing teacher absence seems unachievable when they are being asked to increase their workload.  **Judith Currie-** ERC propose to restructure Saturday music school in Williamwood, and raised the question about funding 20 pupils to attend Royal Conservatoire when this money could be put into schools as a whole. It was highlighted that many cuts are in progress.  **Jonathan Black** Informs PC that Lanarkshire has already started making cuts- ⅓ of clerical staff have gone with the knock on of making it harder to recruit new teachers.  **Judith Currie** Other suggestions made at ERC consultation: restructure nursery provision by not having teachers but PSAs.  **Vanessa Taylor** This already the case in Glasgow. But raises question about coping with expanded early years hours and sees LAs covering cost of a political decision. But, this earlier nursery provision is intended to identify and help those children requiring early intervention.  **Judith Currie** HTs as a whole will be required to save a total of £5m.  **BM -** discusses the situation.States he has not been involved in a formal discussion about the implications of the budget savings for CPS. The cuts to PSAs and clerical staff is out-with school budget as is the fixed pupil/teacher ratio (1 teacher:13.5 pupils). So far there has been no mention of teacher numbers being cut and it’s in the ERCs interest to maintain teacher numbers.  It also raises question of HTs governance when there is no budget to work with! Hopefully unspent money can be carried year to year thus offering longer term planning. The concern is the school will be unable to achieve all goals with a reduction in resources and acknowledges there are difficult years ahead.  Although CPS is statistically affluent there are still many needs and demands to be met.  Being a large school has its challenges but has the benefit of “highly invested parental contribution.”  **BM-** The survey has been a great exercise in discovering what is wanted for our children and the school.  **Attainment Levels at Carolside**  **Debbie Hosie** informs PC of a rumor that 2016 Carolside P3s came out lowest in the years tests compared with any previous years.  **BM** assures this is untrue; P3, P5 & P7 performance dropped but that Carolside adheres to the guidance of not preparing children before tests,. The school is aware that attainment will dropped from 98% (This equates to16 children not achieving in the whole school), but importance is placed on testing historic attainment levels rather than maintaining historic levels of attainment.  £38m could be saved by not carrying out NST.  **Miss Dunn** mentions the trialing of a ‘new’ assessment involving functionality and children identifying skills required and this seems more positive. Teachers can access the results helping them identify each pupil’s needs.  **Judith Currie -** asks BM how will the school deal with the fall in attainment levels to which BM assures the PC it all relates to the school being sure of itself.  **Vanessa Taylor-** questions a rumor that Carolside P7 pupils below level of attainment for S1.  **Louise Bennion-** assures parents that high school pupils are tested over longer periods and put into groups/classes that match ability. There is a strong relationship between Williamwood High School and the feeding Primary schools.  **Judith Currie other** suggestion at the ERC Consultation for saving money was to provide free and subsidised school meals only to those that need them, others pay a fair value.  **AW-** thanks Judith for attending the budget meeting on behalf of Carolside PC.  Suggestions for reducing costs further by ERC include emailing homework rather than printing it.  **AW** also assures the council that the stage is paid for by a grant and PTA funds and is safe. |  |
| *9. AOB* | **Internet Safety Meeting**  **Judith Currie** updates council that RespectMe.org willing to do transition meetings e.g. evening and whole ERC events.  **BM-** informs council that NSPCC offer similar services and Fiona is hoping to organise an event in February. It’s advisable to bring own device to these events. |  |
|  | **Lost Property**  Shona Wyper, Alison and Julia sorted out lost property, returned a lot with help from pupils. Still a lot remaining, and it’s suggested putting photos on PTA Facebook. |  |
|  | Congratulations to BM on the birth of his daughter and the PC wishes them well.  AW wished all a Happy Christmas. |  |
| *9. Next Meeting* | Next meeting **Tuesday 30th January 2018** at 7pm  Home baking or cakes always welcome. |  |