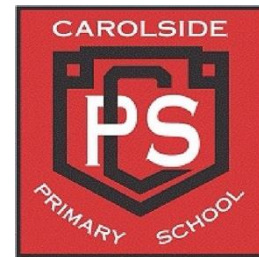


Carolside Parent Council

Meeting Minutes



Date: Wednesday 28 November 2018

Place: Williamwood High School

Present:

Name	Initials	Year Group
Jacqui McIntosh	JM	Nursery (am)
Nicola Edgar	NE	Nursery (pm)
Pamela Graham	PG	P1
Fiona McKenna	FM	P2
Jonathan Black	JB	P2
Deborah Wilson	DW	P3
Gillian Cox	GC	P4
Rebecca Nicholson	RN	P5 (Chair)
Judith Currie	JC	P6 (Vice Chair)
Christine Kiltie	CL	P7
Lorraine Jenkins	LJ	P7
Bryan McLachlan	BM	Head Teacher
Jacqueline Dunn	JD	Depute Head Teacher
Mr Hull		Digital strategy
Mr Barron		Digital strategy
Mr Canning		Digital strategy

Apologies:

Christine Carswell (P3)

Sharon Henderson (P5)

Lesley Watson (P4)

Annette Ireland – ERC

1. General Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

RN welcomed members to the meeting, staff and Mr Hull, Mr Barron and Mr Canning who would provide an overview on the digital strategy and activities across the school.

2. Digital technology update

BM acknowledged the timely nature of the digital session given the new timetable structure, with Mr Hull now providing each class with 4x50 minute chunks delivered twice, over the 4 terms, giving more time to explore and more substance to what they're learning. All schools are investing in this area as the fastest moving, most dynamic area of the curriculum. Carolside were recently awarded 'Digital Schools Award'. The 'Digital Schools Validation Report' gives more insight into what the school is doing – see attached.

Mr Hull talked through activities taking place now and longer term goals. Please see attached presentation for more detail. An overview of the tools being used by each year was given:

- P3 – P7: Glow and Google classrooms. Using ‘Be Internet Legends’ Google book which can be sourced online and used at home.
- P1 – P2: Supported by reading books in line with the online safety theme.
- Digileaders sessions are proving successful enabling P7s to assist P1s in their use of technology.
- Digidropins also working well to help staff get tech savvy.
- As pupils progress, the focus moves onto coding, computational thinking, consumption and content.

Recent investment made of £4500 on new technologies:

- PTA have paid for a new set of chromebooks (portable) for classroom use (shared).
- Tablets provided for staff training and embedding technology in more daily activities.
- Lots of portable resources including: spheros; microbits; cubelets; scratch; VR headsets; iPads.

Mr Canning talked through his use of different technologies in his everyday classroom teaching. To bring lessons to life and create more interactive opportunities. For example:

- Numeracy: Noggles using Alexa is used to play interactive games.
- Literacy: Using Newsround as a daily platform. Easily accessible for those pupils with learning challenges; Read Theory provides an online comprehension programme and gets very strong engagement from the kids.
- Other tools include: GoPro; iPlayer; Alexa and Touchboard;

This approach has increased accessibility and engagement and improved enjoyment and attainment.

Mr Barron talked about the use of pupil profiles, class blogs and online homework.

- Pupil profiles is a tool being piloted with P7s and lets them build their own personal website. Google sites is the tool used (free). The tool allows them to: create a personal profile; record personal achievements; capture hopes and ambitions; log work they are proud of; and can be used as an assessment tool. The profiles can be passed from year to year to become a full school record, maintained by the pupil. At the moment the tool is only visible through GLOW.
- Class blogs: these create class hubs with online homework; instant self marking capability; class work logs; and is pupil controlled. Being trialled with 1 class at the moment.

Other tech updates:

Bring your own device days continue this year across P6 & 7 on Tuesday 5th February as ‘Safer Internet Day’. The school will provide devices to those without. There will be a parent information evening on 16th January.

PC members questioned how excessive screen time is avoided with all these developments. Teachers explained not all digi activities involve screens. Daily Mile will often be used to give the kids a break. There is a wider health and wellbeing agenda which encompasses the impact of digital technology on kids. Mr Hull stressed the emphasis is not on consumption but creation and achieving a healthy balance of screen time.

3. Actions outstanding from previous minutes

Gender Neutral toilets: A follow up letter was sent thanking the council for their reply but noting that the issue we raised remains unaddressed. No reply received as yet.

Generic email account for Parent Council – work in progress.

Parent Council GDPR Policy: This was shared as all members of parent council must comply to avoid a breach. An electronic copy is available online – see LINK.

Action:

RN to email soft copy policy to those PC members not in attendance. PC members to read policy, sign, scan and return by email to RN. Destroy paper copy.

Self-evaluation parent council checklist – move this forward to item for January meeting.

Traffic: no update!

4. Head Teacher's Report

Things continue to be very busy here in Carolside. It's been another very positive few weeks since we last met, so I hope that this update will be useful to you.

Staffing

There are one or two updates with regard to staffing, so I hope that this information is helpful to you.

DHT Appointments

Two DHT appointments made in late October – Mrs McDonald and Mrs McGregor. Mrs McGregor will start on Monday 3rd December – we look forward to welcoming her to the school.

Other Recruitment

Mrs Giles has gone on maternity leave.

Mrs Richardson has returned from mat leave – good to have her back at work.

Mrs Hughes (PT) to go on maternity leave next month. Recruitment for Acting PT will take place over the next few weeks. This will be advertised within the school in the first instance. I will report the outcome of this recruitment exercise next month.

School Improvement Planning

- As noted in earlier in the meeting the school has received the Digital Schools Award. This reflects the development of the work of the school in this area very positively. Several senior classes are now piloting online pupil profiles to capture their learning.
- House System – The working party have worked towards a launch date in the new year, so you will hear more about this in January. Thanks to all who were involved in the consultation regarding this development.
- Teaching staff and CDOs working towards the moderation event in February.

Cluster Improvement Planning

- The Cluster Forum took place two weeks ago. Focus on The Sciences and some practical approaches that can be taken in classes to ensure fair tasting during science investigations. Our Science Champions, Mrs Little and Miss Proctor, played an active part in the input the cluster staff received that day.
- Cluster staff looking to form informal moderation forums, giving teachers across different schools in the cluster the chance to share standards.
- The Cluster 3-18 group convened this week to share information ahead of the transition processes, particularly for our P7 pupils, later in the session.

I will report the progress of the school and cluster plans as the session progresses.

Other News

- Thanks to all parents and carers who managed to attend our Open Afternoons last month.
- Thanks to all who supported the school and nursery over the weekend. Both fayres were very well attended and particular thanks goes to the PFA and the PTA for all of their hard work and preparation.
- Thanks to all who were able to attend the HT drop-in this week and the Lockerbie meeting last week.
- Anti-bullying Week was two weeks ago and Book Week Scotland was last week. Thanks to all who were involved and more information about these events can be found on the Twitter feed.
- Successes this month include our Digital Schools Award, as already mentioned.
- Our senior badminton team won the ERC finals and will now go on to represent ERC at the Wes of Scotland finals next month. Many congratulations.

Next Month

- Christmas Arrangements – newsletter at the beginning of next week.
 - o Infant nativity (11th and 12th Dec)
 - o Carols and shortbread (13th Dec)
 - o Christmas Service (21st Dec)
 - o Early close (2.30pm)
- Show for next session – preparations to begin next month.

Thank you for your support of the work of the school.

Action: BM ensure latest digital learning / outdoor learning timetable is issued to parents.

5. Parent Council Connect training

RN asked the room for feedback on the session. General feedback was it was informative and Carolside PC seem to be performing well against 'good practice'.

6. Polling Station Review

GC provided an overview of the current situation. Since the last review, 6 teaching dates have been lost which has affected a significant number of children to provide only 4 polling stations in the school. It was noted that on polling day, all doors in the school are open which presents a security risk.

The proposal is to only use Carolside Nursery in future. We would like this request noted with the Council before their next review, the 21st of December being the closing date.

Action: PC members consider what has been discussed and feedback to Gillian to enable submission to the Council. See emails from RN.

7. PTA Update

GC provided an update on behalf of the PTA. £5400 profit was recorded from the Christmas Fayre but is subject to change. Fayre was much busier thanks to the Sunday and being a week earlier. The Grotto was outstanding and items made, gifted and bought will assist in many years fayres to come. The school has been paid for class wishlists. The book drive was a complete success with exception of one family's feedback. All that contacted us were delighted to have contributed and many families donated more than we requested. Miss Craig is sorting books into mixed genres and reading styles/abilities and will tie up with ribbon and deliver to each class by Friday this week. We have a meeting scheduled for the Fayre debrief and tentative plans for next year and the summer fayre. The next event is the 23rd February and will be a party night for adults only. Details to follow. Our thanks again to Mrs Nicholson and all of parent council for their continued support. Bank account now sitting at c. £12k but class wish grants and expenses for the fayre yet to be deducted.

8. AOCB

Parent Council asked about Equity Funding for the school. BM explained that decisions are made on a school by school basis by Scottish Government, aimed at closing the attainment gap between the affluent and disadvantaged. With an average score of 9.7, Carolside remains the most affluent school in East Renfrewshire. We do receive some funding which is used to employ a teacher to focus on those with additional learning needs. PC questioned whether there were opportunities to teach kids about the principles that sit behind equity funding. The school do participate in this through activities including food bank donations and using charities as project topics in class.

BM raised an issue he saw explored in an article in the Herald about the cost of the school day to parents. It prompted discussion on teacher's gifts that parents may feel pressure to contribute to at Christmas and end of year. He noted that teachers do have to declare gifts over a specific value. He challenged us to consider possible alternatives to this at the next parent council meeting and whether this becomes something to create school policy on.

Possible agenda items for future meetings:

- School photos – some parents have expressed a dislike for current school photo format with it being too staged.

- Tuck shop – some concerns around the chocolate and strawberry milk offering and tuck shop. Some PC members were unaware that tuck access can be limited. BM suggested we bring in the catering manager to the next meeting.
- Fit and Fruity Friday – some questions around making this more regular to encourage more healthy snacking and activities.

These points highlighted an opportunity to improve communication to parents in a ‘things I’d wish I’d known’ format, similar to that provided to P1 parents on joining the school.

Action: FC bring along ‘things I wish I’d known’ list in order for PC to consider how we build and open further communications.

9. Next Meeting

22nd January in Carolside Primary School. Cake, tea, coffee and New Year joy welcome.

Appendices:

Digital strategy slides

Digital Schools Validation Report

Parent Council GDPR link (provide via email direct to PC members)