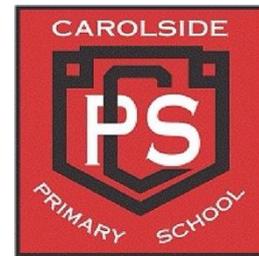


Carolside Parent Council

Meeting Minutes



Date: Tuesday 22nd January 2019

Place: Carolside Primary School

Present:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Initials</i>	<i>Year Group</i>
Jacqui McIntosh	JM	Nursery (am)
Nicola Edgar	NE	Nursery (pm)
Pamela Graham	PG	P1
Alison Young	AY	P1
Fiona McKenna	FM	P2
Jonathan Black	JB	P2
Deborah Wilson	DW	P3
Christine Carswell	CC	P3
Gillian Cox	GC	P4
Lesley Watson	LW	P4
Rebecca Nicholson	RN	P5 (Chair)
Sharon Henderson	SH	P5
David Clubley	DC	P6
Bryan McLachlan	BM	Head Teacher
Jacqueline Dunn	JD	Depute Head
Gayle McDonald	GM	Depute Head
Jo McGregor	JMc	Depute Head
Emma Proctor	EP	Outdoor Learning presentation
Kate Meechan	KM	Outdoor Learning presentation
Sara Craig	SC	Outdoor Learning presentation
Annette Ireland	AI	ERC
Alan Lafferty	AL	ERC
Lorraine Lawrie		ERC
Stevie Greer	SG	Traffic

Apologies:

Judith Currie (P6, Vice-Chair), Christine Kiltie (P7), Lorraine Jenkins (P7)

1.) General Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

RN welcomed members to the meeting, staff and Lorraine Lawrie (ERC), ERC Councillors and staff who would provide an overview on outdoor activities across the school.

2.) School Crossing Patrollers

Lorraine Lawrie (Quality manager from Facilities Dept., ERC), provided information about the role of school crossing patrollers

- Recruitment ongoing for more patroller across East Renfrewshire, please spread the word! A recent careers event has identified four people who are interested in the role and Loraine will look into this further.
- This is not a statutory service for the Council to provide. Parents are obliged to bring their children safely to school.
- A combination of acute staff illness and a vacancy has led to the current situation of some areas not being covered.
- Priority is always given to areas of most need which tend to be those closest to schools.
- Current arrangements are that two patrollers from Barrhead are coming over to fill the gaps around Carolside.
- Loraine will discuss with community safety wardens whether they would be able to have a role on this service.

3)Traffic Update

SG and **RN** provided an update regarding a recent meeting with council regarding the proposed traffic management system. A traffic survey initially showed lower volume of traffic than council staff had expected however, on further scrutiny it was identified that these numbers remained significant as almost all traffic was identified as school related. The Council plan is to conduct surveys around all local schools in this district as part of a wider project around travel to school. A broader change is therefore still on the table but some months away.

However, it has been confirmed that a works order has been raised and in the coming months (hopefully by March/April) the bus bay at Carolside will be marked as “no waiting” between 7am -7pm, meaning no stopping or parking. We have been advised that Wardens will support with the enforcement of this and it was discussed that it will be a new message for those who may have been unaware that it should not be used due to the current lack of signage. All road markings around the school will also be relined.

There are ongoing discussions around creating a green zone around the school. It was suggested that we should discuss this further at next meeting with the suggestion that ideas could then be communicated to local councillors.

The group thanked Stevie for his work on this topic. It was also noted that the ‘soft start’ for P1 has been successful so far, with less pedestrian traffic around the gate and a calmer start to the day for pupils, staff and parents/carers.

4) Outdoor Learning Activities

Miss Meechan gave a very interesting presentation on how Outdoor Learning is structured at Carolside. Outdoor Learning covers many areas in Curriculum for Excellence e.g. communication skills, ICT, problem solving etc. Pupils use skills such as refectation, photography etc. Children are encouraged to lead their learning and recent activities have involved constructing a bomb shelter and World War 2 aeroplane.

Miss Craig discussed how outside space is used to teach children skills in a different environment, which can be particularly beneficial for some who can find the classroom environment more challenging. She gave examples of using outside spaces to stimulate discussion that facilitated descriptive writing and also using outdoor materials such as leaves provide a focus for numeracy and maths topics.

Miss Proctor explained her role in the Nature project.

Pupils can achieve the first level in Primary 6. Last year was the first year that this was available in Carolside. Surveys completed include flat worm surveys, bug count and air health survey. This coming year Miss Proctor plans to work with classes and teachers to allow further education around exploring and conserving the environment.

Miss Proctor and Mrs Little recently attended a SSERC course regarding using outdoors to develop science.

Miss Proctor is also helping develop an Eco network along with St Cadocs AND Giffnock Primary schools

5.) Head Teacher's Diary **22nd January**

We are all safely back from, what I hope was, a restful and enjoyable Christmas and New Year. 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.

Acting PT Appointment

Mrs S Hughes left us on Friday to begin a period of maternity leave – we wish her well at this very exciting time in her family life. Mrs Hughes' post will be filled on an acting basis by Mrs L Gillian – we congratulate her on her appointment to Acting PT. Mrs Gillian will still be the teacher in P3c, with Miss McCracken agreeing to cover the class two days a week in order to allow Mrs Gillian time to fulfil these additional duties.

Delighted to have Mrs S Wallet return to work after a lengthy period of absence due to illness.

Recruiting for the post of Senior Child Development Officer. This advert closes a week on Sunday and we'll update you with regard to the appointment we hope to make to this post.

School Improvement Planning

- As I mentioned at the last meeting, teaching staff and CDOs are working towards the moderation event in February. This will be on the morning of the Inset Day and will provide the opportunity for staff to participate in the sharing and understanding of standards with colleagues who work at a similar stage of the curriculum in other establishments.
- The afternoon of the inset day will be the first steps towards creating a School Improvement Plan for next session. The staff group will consider the progress we have made with this year's plan and, with consideration of the local and national priorities in mind, begin to this about what will be in next year's plan. The process of creating a plan for next session will take a number of months, and all stakeholders will contribute to this throughout the coming months.
- Recent focus on pupil-led learning at the most recent teaching staff meeting. You will be aware of the focus upon playful approaches to the curriculum in the early years – staff have been considering how play and enquiry-based learning might be more of a feature in children's experiences up the school.
- Some early discussion is taking place regarding the grouping of children in numeracy and literacy across all stages of the school. This is a long-standing arrangement and we'd like to discuss whether there may be a different way of managing the classes to ensure all needs are met. This may feature in the School Improvement Plan next session.

Cluster Improvement Planning

- The various Cluster Standing Groups have been meeting over recent weeks. The 3-18 group are focussed on the pending transition arrangements, while the moderation group are looking to facilitate more opportunities for teachers across cluster school to speak about sharing standards.
- The STEM group is focussed on the Primary Cluster Science project at this time, which was a focus at the November Cluster Forum. Two members of our teaching staff are attending the Primary Cluster Programme in Science and Technology this Friday and Saturday. They will disseminate this learning experiences through the cluster schools.

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

Other News

- Thanks to all for supporting the school during the festive period.
- Plans have been shared for the nursery building extension, designed to help us meet the requirements of 1140.
- Our senior badminton team won the regional finals and will now go on to represent ERC at the national finals next month. Many congratulations.

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

6.)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.

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:

All members to sign and return to RN please.

Self-evaluation parent council checklist

move this forward to item for February meeting.

Polling station - comments have been collated and submitted, proposing use of the nursery rather than the whole school. An acknowledgement was received.

School photos:

Many parents have expressed that they would prefer a return to more formal line type arrangement for class photos and this will be communicated to photographers. **Action: RN will request confirmation**

7.)AOCB

- Gifts to teachers – carry forward to February
- There are three more meetings before the Parent Council AGM. What would we like to see/achieve in these meetings? **Action: Feedback to Rebecca please.**
- The FRIEDA group have expressed an interest in the next meeting as the catering manager will be attending this meeting. Parent Council would like to invite the group to submit questions for the catering manager prior to the next meeting.
- Topics suggested for future presentations at meetings were science, languages, playful pedagogy, the School house system and behavioural management policy.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 26TH February in Carolside Primary School.

Appendices:

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