

Carolside Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday 26th February 2019
Place: Carolside Primary School



Present:

Name	Initials	Year Group
Jacqui McIntosh	JM	Nursery (am)
Nicola Edgar	NE	Nursery (pm)
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)
Judith Currie	JC	P6 (Vice)
David Clubley	DC	P6
Lorraine Jenkins	LJ	P7
Christine Kiltie	CK	P7
Bryan McLachlan	BM	Head Teacher
Jacqueline Dunn Jo McGregor	JD JMc	Depute Head Depute Head
Stevie Greer	SG	Traffic
Sheena Langdon (Catering presentation only)		FREIDA

Apologies:

Alison Young (P1), Pamela Graham(P1), Sharon Henderson (P5), Gayle McDonald (Depute Head), Councillor Annette Ireland

1.) General Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

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

2.) Traffic Update

SG and **RN** updated the group that the school bus bay markings have been relined by the Council however the No Waiting restrictions are not enforceable until the advisory signage has been installed. There are plans to implement a number of signs around the area to ensure members of the public that continue to park in the bus lane are aware that there may be penalties. **SG** is working with the Council to coordinate parking wardens to patrol the area once the signs are installed.

The group agreed that once the relevant signage has been installed then a joint approach by the school and Parent Council would be required to communicate the restrictions to parents through various mediums

including Twitter and Facebook. **Action: Parent Council Reps to communicate new parking restrictions via class Facebook pages once signage is installed.**

New lines have also been painted on Ashfield Road, but some further works to take place to ensure that the new parking restrictions are enforceable. The Parent Council passed their thanks onto Stevie Greer for his hard work and dedication for moving this forward.

GC, RN and SG attended the Traffic planning workshops facilitated by the Council to discuss ideas around 'Tackling the School Run'. The workshops were attended by representatives from a few schools in the area. Several topics were discussed including council focus areas to tackle the school run, communication with stakeholders, challenge and opportunities. All PC attendees thought that the session was worthwhile and felt that the Council was genuinely interested in finding solutions to traffic issues across all East Renfrewshire schools. A follow up session is to be set up by the council.

SG provided some detail on the Glasgow schools traffic pilot where streets have been closed to cars around schools at school start and end times. Glasgow City council have taken a partnership approach with external agencies such as Sustrans and environmental agencies who have also provided funding to support these types of initiatives. One of the Councillor's involved in leading this initiative has offered to come to speak to Carolside Parent Council to outline approach taken by Glasgow City Council.

4) Catering Provision at Carolside

Anne Campbell, Carolside's Catering Manager attended the meeting and provided an overview into the provision of nutritionally balanced meals provided at lunchtimes. AC outlined that all food provided during lunchtimes has been nutritionally assessed to comply with national nutritional guidelines. The school is a Bronze standard holder with Food for Life. All menus are carefully assessed to meet a wide range of dietary requirements including Halal, Kosher and Gluten free.

Most meals are made fresh on site with the school, with as much as possible made from scratch- and the school tries to use seasonal vegetables where possible, receiving organic boxes from Locavore. The only fried food provided to children is fish (P4 upwards, it's baked for P1-3), which appears on the menu once in every 3 weeks. Primary 1 -3 get fruit and vegetable platters on the table and the kitchen servers approx. 500 diners every day.

The kitchens at Carolside prepare desserts for other schools and are sent out to other schools daily. All desserts served at Carolside, including cakes served at Tuck during morning break, are made fresh on site with as little sugar as possible. Items served at tuck are not bound by the same nutritional standard as lunch time meals. No chocolate appears on the menu or at tuck. All recipes for items sold during Tuck offerings are low fat and low sugar. There was a reminder that parents can contact the school to set tuck restrictions which catering staff will enforce. There was some debate at the meeting if healthier options could be considered at Tuck, with the provision of more fruit. A suggestion was made about having every day as Fit and Fruity instead of one day a month. BMC advised that this could be looked at by pupils on the H&W pupil council. **Action: Parent Council and school SMT to consider how to move this forward**

Discussion took place around the milk offering with several parents concerned at the provision of chocolate and strawberry milk. It was thought this was originally introduced for children who wouldn't drink milk at all otherwise. AC to confirm the sugar content in flavoured milk provide this back to the Parent Council. AC committed to sending out a letter to parents at the end of Primary 2, advising what children can purchase in Primary 3 and that restrictions can be set for each child by calling the office.

Action: AC to provide sugar content of flavoured milk and to send out Tuck letters to all P2 pupils at the end of the school year, in preparation for P3

A site that may be of interest to parents is the Food for Life websites that can help parents with nutritional info and advice around everyday things including healthy items for packed lunches.

<https://www.foodforlife.org.uk/>

**5.) Carolside Primary School and Nursery Class
Head Teacher's Diary
26th February 2019**

I trust that this brief update is useful to you.

Staffing

Only one item of Staffing to brief you about this month. As intimated last month we sought to recruit a Senior CDO over the last few weeks and I am delighted to report that we have managed to do so. Mrs Zoe Holmes has been successfully appointed to the post after interview last week. We congratulate Zoe and look forward to her joining the team in the summer term.

Some of you may know that next month sees quite a significant recruitment exercise for teachers across the local authority. There are no vacancies here in Carolside.

School Improvement Planning

- Teachers and CDOs participated in the local authorities moderation event during the recent inservice day. We hosted the 2nd level discussions here in Carolside and all benefitted from the chance to share standards with staff across the local authority.
- During the afternoon of the inset day staff audited the School Improvement Plan. We are happy with the progress this far, with a particular focus around the progress we have made when empowering pupils to lead their own learning. Please check the Twitter feed for a useful insight into the variety of contexts being used to promote skills development across the school.
- We are not far from convening a Working Party to look at the SIP for next session. This will be prefaced by the annual consultation with all stakeholders, which will take place soon. Your contribution to this would be very much appreciated, as would the contribution of all parents/carers.
- During the inset day staff spoke about the manner in which we group children to meet their academic needs in the classroom. If this might be something you all might like to hear more about, or contribute to, please do let me know.
- Finally, you may have heard about the progress we are making with regard to the implementation of the house system. The children all carried out homework to help with the naming of the houses and our Pupil Council made the final decision. The houses will be named after the four surrounding streets: Greenfield, Mansfield, Strathearn and Ashfield. The children now know which house they belong to and the next step is to implement the points system throughout the school.

Cluster Improvement Planning

- You will recall me speaking of the ongoing STEM development work being led by staff across the cluster. Miss Proctor and Mrs Little attended training three weeks ago and will share this with cluster staff at the cluster forum tomorrow afternoon. We are grateful to both Miss Proctor and Mrs Little for taking on these responsibilities.

- Cluster planning is ongoing, with early thoughts around next year's plan developing.

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

Other News

- Plans have been shared for the nursery building extension, designed to help us meet the requirements of 1140.
- Our senior badminton team. Many congratulations.
- As mentioned earlier, please follow the school's twitter feed to get some useful information about children learning. Thanks to parents and carers who have supported with this.
- Thanks to parents and carers who assisted with our recent Careers Day.
- Plans developing for International Week. Each class will undertake their own piece of work which will be presented at the end of the week, on the 15th of March.
- World Book Day is on the 7th of March. We'll be having a reading focus throughout the week, so any extreme readers will be welcomed! The Story Swap and the Reading Cafe will feature on the 7th too. We are looking forward to it!
- The second round of Parent Consultations will take place on the 20th and 21st March.
- The Spring Service will take place on Friday 29th March.

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

6.) Toilets

- RN advised that the issue of the toilets had become live again and a communication has been received from a parent who had requested support in her opposition to the fact that ERC have not followed the current regulations when refitting the toilets. RN noted the regulations are from 1967 and due to be updated. She has spoken with Connect on the issue, who have advised that parental concern for children must be balanced with the wishes of the child, and common sense. The school does still have gender specific toilet provision and staff confirmed that no issues have been reported from the pupils in regard to the gender-neutral toilets. (JC) confirmed that she had recently been in contact with another concerned parent who opposed the decision-making and questioned legalities. A concern was expressed over the online poll conducted by a local Councillor, as there was no means to determine if respondents were Carolside parents, and the premise of the question was felt by some to be biased and misleading. ERC have advised that the only formal complaint on the issue was from Carolside Parent Council, lodged last year in regard to the lack of consultation. It was noted that the parent raising the concern has been directly in contact with ERC on the issue. JC and RN reminded the Committee that the Parent Council has already taken a range of appropriate actions to represent parents, including sending two letters and attending a meeting with the Council manager and the HT PC members gave a show of hands, which determined by majority that the issue would not be taken forward again at this time. **Actions: RN will contact Scottish Government to establish what stage the review of the School Premises Regulations is at. RN to respond to the parent who raised the concern.**

Commented [RN1]:

7.) PTA Update

- £8400 in bank.
- Major disappointment no one came to open meeting earlier this month

- Running a cheese and wine night along with PFA to thank all previous and current committees and volunteers and to welcome anyone who would like to join either committee. 22nd March- please push.
- Discos and movies for all years planned.
- Summer fayre 1st June.
- P7 plans in place- hoodies can only be bought at parent consultations
- Good Life next weekend but at present not anywhere near enough tickets sold so will consider on Friday if we pull it.
- P4 swimming lessons were discussed (PTS believe it is HT and PC choice about what to do) we will then consider funding request when/if it's out to us.

7.) Actions outstanding from previous minutes

Self-evaluation parent council checklist: move this forward to item for March meeting.

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 April.
- Topics suggested for future presentations at meetings were science, languages, playful pedagogy, the School house system, Maths and behavioural management policy.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 26th March in Carolside Primary School.