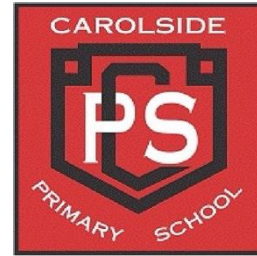


Carolside Parent Council

Meeting Minutes



Date: Tuesday 26th March 2019

Place: Carolside Primary School

Present:

Name	Initials	Year Group
Jacqui McIntosh	JM	Nursery (am)
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
Judith Currie	JC	P6 (Vice Chair)
Lorraine Jenkins	LJ	P7
Christine Kiltie	CK	P7
Jacqueline Dunn	JD	Depute Head
Jo McGregor	JMc	Depute Head
Gill Christiansen	GCh	PTA
Annette Ireland	AI	Local Councillor

Apologies:

Nicola Edgar (Nursery PM), Pamela Graham (P1), David Clubley (P6), Gayle McDonald (Depute Head), Bryan McLachlan (Head Teacher).

1) Introduction

Committee welcomed Gill Christiansen from the PTA. There was no presentation planned for this meeting.

Standard service on PC is 2 years. Members can resign. *Please let RN know if you intend to stay on or step down for the next school year.*

2) Actions outstanding from previous minutes

The previous minutes are to be changed to reflect that the letter about milk should be sent out to families at the end of P1 preparation for P2, and that the Tuck letter goes out at end of P2 in preparation for P3.

Previously, the letter wasn't received early enough.

RN had had an opportunity to see the Tuckshop and didn't feel Tuck was as varied as had been described at the previous meeting. Could offer more healthy options.

Swimming lessons: GC highlighted that several P4 parents had raised concerns about the overall swimming lesson process, along with supporting the needs of all children regardless of ability or additional needs. As

this is a specific year group issue, it has been taken offline. GC and RN attended a meeting with Chris Cox from Active Schools and BMCL and GMcD, to discuss ways to enhance the experience for all children. Chris Cox suggested that he approach the Swim Team and request a workshop with all stakeholders (inc other schools) to look at the process and potential improvement opportunities.

GC highlighted her concerns about comments that had been posted by a local councillor on his social media site, and read out the specific comments. The comments were directed at the running of the Parent Council, and his perception that we have 'swept aside' the issue of the introduction of gender-neutral toilets within the school. The councillor has also been in direct contact with our Parent Council Chair via Messenger to put forward a very personal attack against our Chair, and then immediately blocked her so she had no opportunity to respond.

He appeared unaware of the wide-ranging discussions and numerous actions we have taken in regard to the matter. It was confirmed again that he has never approached the school or the PC to discuss the issue directly despite being invited to our meetings. JC confirmed the comments were unhelpful to the PC, malevolent and personally offensive to the Chair. JC also highlighted many flaws in the social media survey he conducted about the toilets. It was widely felt that the online conduct was falling short of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. *It was agreed by the Parent Council that GC would raise a formal complaint with the Ethical Standards Committee, on behalf of Parent Council, covering both the comments made towards the Parent Council, along with the individual contact towards the Chair.*

3) **Toilets**

This item hadn't been on the agenda.

RN: In response to our enquiry, Scottish Government sent the following:-

Decisions regarding the provision of toilets in schools are a matter for local authorities, provided that they comply with the School Premises (General Requirements and Standards) (Scotland) Regulations 1967.

However, under current plans to update these regulations later this year, additional flexibility will be permitted to meet the needs of modern schools, including in the case of accessible and gender neutral toilets. This follows a public consultation on updating the regulations: www.gov.scot/publications/updating-school-premises-general-requirements-standards-scotland-regulations-1967-analysis/.

You may also wish to look at the Scotland's Schools for the Future school building programme's Interim Findings

Report: www.scottishfuturetrust.org.uk/storage/uploads/scotlandsschoolsforthefutureinterimfindingsreportmay2018.pdf. For example, page 100 of the report (Section 6: Findings Summary) mentions 'reported reduction in bullying and vandalism in open circulation toilet arrangements'.

ERC believe they are not in breach of the Regulations.

Committee acknowledged that we risk losing sight of the children. Direction is given by elected government, due process and the law.

The HT previously confirmed that any further refurbishment of toilets would be preceded by a Consultation.

No PC representative reported receiving any requests for action or concerns relating to the toilets since the last meeting.

4) Communications

JB suggested a PC/PTA presence at Parents' Nights to boost parental engagement. *As well as JB, LJ and RN offered to be involved.* A notice board is also available at school reception, and we could put photos there. HT's newsletter already features a link to minutes.

GCh highlighted PTA membership. RN suggested recruiting minimum 2 parents per year group. A volunteers list exists. RN stated she still feels we have more to do as a PC to improve parental awareness / knowledge of our work and there are a number of means we could use for this. She suggested a questionnaire to consult the parent body on this and will forward suggestions for discussion at the next meeting.

5) Traffic

A works instruction has been issued. At time of meetings, the pole was in situ at the Bus Bay but the restriction sign was not. Therefore although the new lining is very visible, many people continue to park there. The sign will prohibit any waiting between 7am and 7pm, other than buses. *AI will speak to Clare Reid to get set up with Community Wardens.* JD confirmed that a strong message will be delivered from the School via children and JRSOs.

6) Head Teacher's Update

See separate HT report attached to this email.

School Improvement Plan: House system has been well received by pupils and staff are included too.

BYOD P6-7 – Easy access to child's Digital Profiles. P5, 6 and 7 can access their GLOW profile from home. Will share the next SIP at the next PC meeting. STEM is changing to STEAM to include Art.

7) PTA update

Recycling bins, to tie in with Eco Status of the school. PTA aim to go paperless.

GCh explained that PTA wish to support picnic benches, Art and Music within the school. Miss Hutchison has ideas. A parent / Head of Conservatoire meeting has been set up with the HT.

Leavers' hoodies have been ordered. Discos were profitable, and sweetie bags were a success.

Summer Fayre is 1st June.

JD pointed out that the MUGA could be made more child-friendly eg lower basketball hoops. FM supported the idea of Astrourfing the surface of the MUGA. Playground improvement needs to be long-term and needs focus. Ideas still being hatched.

Planters were removed following a Risk Assessment.

AI confirmed that Busby Road is to be closed Southbound only due to installation of the Parklets. Traffic light phasing would be altered to accommodate diversion. She hoped the process, although earmarked for 4 weeks, would only take 2 over the school holidays.

AI acknowledged that yesterday's consultation on Clarkston was not well publicised and notice was only a few hours. 10 people attended. Online feedback is a possibility.

8) Self-assessment of Parent Council

RN distributed questionnaires for each member to fill in, in order to gauge how we are performing as a Parent Council. *Please return at next meeting (RN)*

9) Inductions

FM suggested compiling a survey to help new parents entering P1. We might ask current P1 parents what they would have wanted to know before their child started out. *JM offered to help and refer to Crookfur Primary's model which she will send to FM.*

10) Health and Wellbeing

DW would like to see Carolside supporting good Mental Health. There is a Health Improvement Team in ERC with a suite of resources. We could access those resources and deliver workshops to parents and careers, to help them to help their children.

JD linked this to the Local Authority review.

AI confirmed that Barrhead Football Club are doing a lot of work on Mental Health, particularly in the area of Resilience.

Fit and Fruity Fridays: plans are afoot to expand aspects of this to more days rather than one day a month. This is to feature in the School Improvement Plan which will be shared at the next meeting. Fitness, health and STEAM will be linked. The school has a Health and Wellbeing Group made up of pupils plus 2 staff, and are looking to have parents involved too.

GC acknowledged that someone tracks how pupils get to school (every day, as a promotion of health, fitness and sustainable travel) but proposed that the children also be asked how they get home. *Staff to confirm at next meeting.*

Next meeting 7pm on 21/5/19. Please bring completed Connect questionnaire if you haven't already handed it in.