**Carolside Parent Council and PTA AGM**

**Tuesday 17th June 2020**

Attendees: Gillian Cox, Rebecca Nicholson, Lise Fisher, Lorraine Jenkins, Ali Preston, Lynn Shopp, Gill Christiansen, Laura Hails, Nafessa Khan, Lynn Gordon, Debi Hosie, Julia Sagasti, Karyn Campbell, Rosie Walsh, Kirsty Lappin, Alison Coyle, Sally Wilkie, Sophie Maudsley, Gordon Bell, Nazia Arshad, Christine Carswell, Jacqui McIntosh, Debbie Wilson, S Miller, Abbie Mitchell Luker, Fiona McKenna, Daniel Clubley, Mr McLachlan, Mrs McGregor

**1. Welcome**

Rebecca Nicholson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. PTA Update**

Gill Christiansen gave an update on the PTA activities throughout the year, with an acknowledgement that this had been brought to an abrupt end with by the COVID 19 situation. Despite this, the main goal of improving the playground has been achieved. Playground equipment has been purchased and installation work will begin on 17th June. There is a piece of new equipment for each playground area and it is hoped that children will be able to use this on their return to school. Existing equipment will also be fixed and PTA members have been busy refreshing the existing painting.

The PTA have also made great strides in the goal of being more Eco-friendly. This has involved the use of e-forms, encouraging the use of reusable water bottles at discos and movie nights and increased recycling at school events.

The PTA have also contributed towards school trips, swimming lessons and grants for each classroom. Money has been ring-fenced for the creation of a Winter Garden in the playground. After this, there is around £2000 left as a slush fund for next session.

No members are leaving the PTA this year but they would welcome any new parents or teachers who wish to join.

**3. PC Update**

Rebecca Nicholson gave an update on the Parent Council activities throughout the year. She noted that they had only had five face to face meetings before the unprecedented events of the year meant they had to move to zoom meetings instead. She regretted that this meant they had not been able to have the usual visitors and presentations they would normally have had. However, they very much enjoyed the information they received on the Wellbeing Week, Playful Pedagogy and Beat the Street. Thanks were given to Mr McLachlan and his staff team for their support and their openness to the consultative process.Rebecca noted that she appreciated the commitment of the PTA and thanks the co-chairs for fostering a positive and collaborative relationship. Thanks were also give to Pamela Graham for her superb minute taking and to Fiona McKenna in her role as vice-chair. Rebecca notes that she is stepping down after two years service and that she will miss everyone - but will volunteer to assist PTA at events.

Fiona McKenna thanked Rebecca for all of her hard work and commitment over the past two years.

**3. ASN Parents Group Update**

Laura Hails spoke about the activities of the ASN Parent Group over the past year. Meetings were held on the first Wednesday of every month with varying numbers of attendees until the pandemic struck. The aim of the group is to provide any parent or carer of any age child with any additional support need in the East Renfrewshire area with a safe space to meet for support, advice and experience sharing. This group is not affiliated with any teachers or school and is confidential. Although every child is different and no two problems are the same, participants usually find that someone has been in a similar situation and can give advice on whatever problem is being faced.

Useful sites are Call Scotland, which is a resource primarily for dyslexia but is also useful for all ASN as it gives ideas for helpful apps for all different devices. They can also lend out things so you can try before you buy. The nhsggc.co.uk/kids site is also useful with NHS staff answering lots of common problems with great suggestions and strategies.

Moving on, the group would like to look more at transitions. For example, it would be useful if primary pupils used the same technologies as they will use in secondary school. Laura thanked Gill Christiansen for all her help and support with the group and would welcome anyone who wished to help to do so. She would particularly like assistance with running the group online during the current situation.

**4. Headteacher’s Update**

Mr McLachlan noted that every school year brings its own challenges but no one could have predicted the present situation. He noted that the first half of the year had been focussed on the quality assurance of the school and that all of the agencies involved had been impressed with the school community, the school ethos and the good relationships between the children, staff team and parents.

Since lockdown, Mr McLachlan has been grateful for the patience and understanding of the whole school community. He is very proud of how well the children have coped and thinks that they are an exceptional group of young people. He is also very grateful for the support of an excellent staff team, who all work very hard and each play an essential part within the school. He thanked the PTA chairs for their service and praised the well organised events and the work recently carried out in the playground. He thanked the Parent Council for their participation in enjoyable meetings and was grateful for the opportunity to hear parents’ views that this afforded.

**5. Roles Approved**

The PTA committee roles for 20/21 were approved as follows:

Chair – RosalynnWalsh

Vice-Chair – Sophie Maudsley

Treasurer – Jacqui Wilson

Secretary – Laura Bunning

Fundraiser – Debi Hosie

The Parent Council roles for 20/21 were approved as follows:

Chair – Fiona McKenna

Vice-Chair – Debbie Wilson