

Crookfur Primary School Parent Council



Website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/Crookfur/parents/parent-council/>
Email: CrookfurParentCouncil@gmail.com

Minutes

DATE: Tuesday 8th March 2022 at 8pm
LOCATION: Zoom Call
CHAIR: Mrs Denny Henderson
PURPOSE OF PARENT COUNCIL: The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 required every school to have a Parent Council. The main aim of a Parent Council is to try to represent all parents/carers, help the school community be successful and support improvement where needed.

1. Welcome and opening remarks

Denny welcome everyone present to the meeting.

2. Present and apologies

Role	Name	Present	Apologies	Role	Name	Present	Apologies
FC	Catherine McLatchie	x		P5	Laura Crichton		X
P1	Krys Kujawa	X		P5	Michelle Wilson	X	
P1	James Campbell	X		P5	Beverly Stoner	X	
P1	Jenni M	X		P6	Allyson Gilchrist		x
P2	Amna Munir	x		P6	David O'Gorman		x
P2	Maaham Ahmad	x		P6	Kari Gillies	X	
P2	Sarah Penny	X		P7	Denny Henderson	X	
P3	Lynsey Williams		x	P7	Gillian Plews		X
P3	Ailsa Munro	X		P7	Fraser Strachan	X	
P3	Melanie McPhail-Smith		X	HT	Sheena McGuigan	X	
P4	Dawn Jamieson	X		DHT	Kimberley Slorach	X	
P4	Jenny Andrew	X		DHT	Claire Jamieson	X	
P4	Conor Murphy		X	CLLR	Tony Buchanan	X	

3. Minutes of previous Parent Council meeting

- 3.1 *Approval of the previous minutes* – these are available on the school website and were approved.

3.2 Actions arising from previous minutes, **all completed and approved**

- Mrs Slorach still looking to find Parents to assist with health and wellbeing presentation, gathering ideas

4. Recent meetings and events

4.1 ERC Parent Council Chairs Forum 2nd February 2022

- Denny emailed a summary of the meeting to Parent Council reps. It was a long meeting which covered the SQA update, the ERC Education Department Local Improvement Plan, ERC Parental Engagement Strategy and the Health & Wellbeing Census.
- Cllr Buchanan explained the [ERC Education Department Local Improvement Plan](#). He highlighted that education is a priority in this local authority. The Council have asked us to have a look and send any feedback back to them by end of March. Denny would like any comments by the end of next week, so she can collate and send them back.

Action	Comments by next Friday from PC reps to Denny	PC Reps
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- The updated ERC Parental Improvement and engagement plan was discussed at the meeting. The three key strands were to communicate, collaborate and consult.
- ERC has finished its Additional Support for Learning Review, following the national review, commonly known as the Morgan Report. An action plan has developed which will be rolled out throughout the authority.
- The Scottish Government have asked local authorities to ask children/young people in P5 to S6 to complete a Health & Wellbeing Census. The census covers a wide range of topics from friendships and how children feel about themselves to alcohol use and sexual activity. Children in primary school will only be asked questions about age-appropriate topics. The Census has been subject to negative news coverage which and at the meeting on 2 February there was a lot of opposition. ERC has taken into account the concerns raised by parents and other national bodies such as Connect. In East Renfrewshire, parents will be given the option to “opt in” to the census and will see the questions that their child/young person will be asked before making the decision. The census will be anonymous for all children/young people.
- Cllr Buchanan mentioned that the point of the Census is to make sure that education can support young people in all aspects of their lives.

4.2 Extension Meeting

- Ruth Adams (ERC Provisions Manager) and Joe McCaig (ERC Head of Education Services) attended from the Council along with a number of Parent Council reps. They gave a presentation showing the proposed extension as well as the reasoning behind it.
- In P4-P7, the maximum permitted class size is 33 pupils. Therefore, if there are more than 66 children in a school year, there will need to be more than 2 classes for that year. Crookfur currently has 2 classes in P6 and P7 but in almost all lower stages there are more than 66 pupils in each year. As the older classes leave and new children start, there will not be enough classrooms to incorporate the existing children plus the new intakes.
- In order to be able to offer a place at Crookfur to all children within the catchment, they need to make it a 3-stream school and the extension will provide 6 additional classrooms, whilst allowing the school to keep some of the general-purpose rooms for art/STEM etc. The aim is that the extension is completed by August 2023 and disruption to children will be fairly minimal. It will be a 2-storey extension on the site of the current staff car park.
- Questions/concerns raised by Parent Council reps to ERC included:
 - a query about whether the hall will be extended as it is not possible to fit all of the current children in for an assembly (no plan to extend)
 - the impact on the amount of outdoor space for children to play (the available space meets the legal requirement)

- are the new classrooms smaller than existing classrooms (slightly, but there will be cloakroom space in the corridors and sinks/storage areas in each classroom)
- will there be disruption from noise during the school day (the contractor will plan to minimise)

5. Financial Report

5.1 Financial report since the last meeting

Statement		IN £	OUT £	BALANCE £
Balance at 26 January 2022				5,821.74
Money out	Buses for Nativity		300.00	
	Easy Fundraising	42.16		
Money in				
Bank balance at 8 March 2022				5,563.90
Cheques still to be cashed	Nursery leavers books		281.50	
	Christmas crafts		57.45	
	P1 Christmas gifts		60.00	
Available to spend at 8 March 2022				5,164.95

5.2 Spending approved out of meeting

- Snacks for World Book Day were approved out of meeting.
- School have paid £1,700 for the Visualisers and Parent Council will pay them back

5.3 Funding requests from school / family centre - none

6. Remembering Mrs Rattray

£989 has currently been raised on the Fundraising page. A parent who owns a timber produce company has offered to support this cause and will be donating a bench. Two further benches will also be purchased from this company. Some plants/planters will also be purchased.

7. PC review of Parent policies

Denny reviewed the Parent information on website and sent a list of items to Mrs McGuigan. Mrs McGuigan suggests it needs a full audit, taking the older information from the website for parents and turn them in to Sway documents so that they can be edited and modernised as needed without having to change what is on the website.

There are also plans to make the School Handbook more interactive and easier to access. Once this has all been done, we can fill the gaps of what is missing. Modern languages leaflet on 1+2 languages will be created. It will take a term or 2 to update these. Learning Teaching and Assessment policy would help give parents an idea of how Teachers plan and teach the curriculum, this could be used to create a slimline version for parents.

8. Recovery and Mental Wellbeing

- Biggest positive step recently has been to reintroduce in-person assemblies. The children and teachers all really enjoyed it and it helped strengthen the sense of community within the school.
- Lots of groups are also running within the school, arts groups, friendship groups, lunchtime groups, transition groups. Classes are also using circle time in classes to discuss issues.
- Primary 5 will take part in HealthiER Minds pilot to look at Anxiety. This will start next Monday and will take place on a weekly basis. Creating a toolbox of techniques to deal with anxiety.
- Staff training on supporting children.

- Seasons for Growth starting with Primary 6 and 7, learning to cope with change and loss. 8-week programme.
- Resilience and bounce-back strategies are important to help the children cope with many different issues.

ACTION	Share something with parent forum about Bounce back, explaining how it's used in the school to support mental health and wellbeing	Mrs McGuigan
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9. Head Teacher Report and Family Centre Update

Roll

- 495 in school 147 in Family centre

News and events

- International mother-tongue and languages week
- World book day
- Parents evenings
- Face to face assemblies
- British science week (Mrs Lamont coordinating)
- Completed ERC standardised testing
- P5 having PE sessions in Eastwood High (senior students leading these)
- Cluster tournaments (Cross-country for P5-P7 and tennis P4 – Mr MacMillan leading)
- Beat the Street going well (organisers have been asked to move a box to help with tapping on the way to school)
- Fleming house reward on 30th March
- Mrs Denholm, Mrs Amin and Mrs Hobson all expecting babies
- Advert for extra class teachers to start in August
- Visualisers and PE equipment all purchased and being used.

Family Centre

- Official opening of the Family Centre took place.
- Transitions will start soon for transitioning to Primary 1
- As restrictions lift, aiming to embrace more community links such as with the local Library

10. Correspondence with parents and carers

- For some classes, the MUGA days and PE days not the same so some children are wearing school shoes to play in the MUGA at breaktime which is causing damage to their school shoes. This is very difficult to coordinate as there are so many classes to balance, not all their sessions will be able to coordinate. Mrs McGuigan suggests that if a child is playing football on MUGA days, that if the child takes trainers in, they can change for break and lunchtimes.
- World book day – Primary 1 parents wonder why the children can't dress up. Mrs McGuigan says that the history of the reason behind dressing up has been lost and it is now a commercial activity with no literacy backups. It also goes against the cost of the school day commitments as well. The 'snap a scene' offered the opportunity to dress up.

11. Subcommittee updates

11.1 *Fundraising & Social Committee*

Number of great ideas about future activities, a newsletter is being created which will be out soon.

11.2 *Diversity group*

- Quite active, Mrs Nasar and a parent, Mrs Riaz, gave a presentation on racism and racial slurs to the Primary 7s.
- Cost of the school day survey has been pulled together. An information sway about how we work against the cost of the school day and support links will be sent out to parents.

- New members have joined.
- The curriculum evening parent workshop on 22nd March will be a presentation from Marilyn Brennan about Recognising and Challenging Gender Bias.

11.3 *Climate Action Group*

Earth day in April will be used as an Eco day fundraiser (linking with Fundraising group)

12. Any other business

Action	Encourage parents to fill in feedback form regarding Parents evening	PC Reps
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Denny Henderson

Chair – Crookfur Primary School Parent Council