

Crookfur Primary School Parent Council



Website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/Crookfur/parents/parent-council/>

Email: CrookfurParentCouncil@gmail.com

Minutes

DATE: Thursday 14th March 2024 at 7.30pm
LOCATION: Eastwood High Sports Centre
CHAIR: Kari Gillies
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

Kari welcomes everyone present to the meeting.

2. Present and Apologies

Role	Name	Present	Apologies	Role	Name	Present	Apologies
P1	Laura Imrie	X		Fc/P5	Melanie McPhail-Smith	X	
P1	Fiona Obhi	X		P5	Jenny McLellan	X	
P1	Preeti Fordyce		X	P5	Ailsa Munro	X	
P2	Cindy Paton	X		P7	Laura Crichton	X	
P2	Samra Naureen		X	P7	Beverly Stoner	X	
P2/6	Catherine McLatchie	X		P7	Michelle Wilson		X
P3	James Campbell	X		Co-op	Kari Gillies	X	
P3	Krys Kujawa	X		HT	Sheena McGuigan	X	
P3	Jenni MacKinnon		X	DHT	Kimberley Storch		X
P4	Maaham Ahmad		X	DHT	Claire Jamieson	X	
P4	Amna Munir		X	CLLR	O'Donnell		X
P4	Sarah Staff	X		CLLR	Buchanan	X	
				CLLR	Morrison		X

Online – Cindy, Sarah, Laura

3. Minutes of previous Parent Council meeting

- Approval of previous meeting minutes

- Actions arising from previous meeting:

ACTION	Keep trying to recruit new members for fundraising committee	PC Reps
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- Actions outstanding from earlier meetings:

ACTION	Email Councillor O'Donnell re Eastwood capacity and Crookfur extension provision	Kari
ACTION	Provide photo to Kari if have not already done so	Reps
ACTION	Find out about getting access to Heartstone books	Mrs McGuigan

4. Recent meetings and events

4.1 Parent Council Chairs

Overview on the Standards & Quality Report/Local Improvement Plan and some of the department's priorities. This is a 3-year plan and it needs to align with national. D Gordon introduced some members of staff from the Education Department – Jonathan Hull (PT Digital Inclusion), Caroline Collins (EDO Primary STEM), Joanna Paterson (EDO Modern Languages) and Frankie & Lauren (Healthier Minds Service). They set up displays in a “marketplace” and the group spent time learning about the impact of their work on learners. Discussion around how to ensure an equal range of resources/learning in extra areas across all schools (such as coding), despite differing school budgets/expenditure etc.

Lego spike robotics programming is done at Mearns Primary. They shared training with other local teachers (Mr Chrystal attended). Perhaps cluster schools could club together to buy kits to share (each kit costs around £450 so it would be an investment as you would need one per 2 or 3 kids). However unfortunately with these Lego sets, once a piece has been lost it renders the whole thing unusable.

Consultation regarding placing request appeals being held remotely. Appellants will still be able to request in person hearing if they prefer. Effort to make appeals more efficient and to help decrease waiting times. There is discussion about these appeals moving to other local authorities, but some councils aren't in favour of this as prefer specific knowledge of the situation and considerations for each authority.

A new Digital Strategy has been launched with head teachers last month and J Hull, PT Digital Inclusion, gave a presentation on the Digital Strategy 2024-27, talking about our Digital Vision, and discussing planned activities within three broad priority areas - Digital Access, Digital Learning and Teaching, Digital Leadership. In particular, AI and its implications was discussed with the group.

New class organisation policy presented to the group, which was produced following consultation with parents, pupils and head teachers. It was presented to head teachers in January. Schools will share further information with pupils and families, in particular in instances where classes in any stage have to be reorganised.

4.2 Equalities Forum

Catherine McLatchie attended for us. An informal style of meeting, attended by some Councillors and ERC Quality Improvement Officers. Discussed how bullying is recorded in schools, how every incident of bullying should be recorded including “alleged” incidences on SEMUS. This will initially cause a spike in reported incidents but will level out. A side talk on racism and what is racism was discussed (slides from Respect Me were shared).

If a school is only reporting a low number of incidents, they may get challenged on this to ensure that all schools are reporting everything. Previously an alleged case was discussed, investigated and dealt with in school via conversations with the young people. They were then recorded on pastoral care notes, but not officially recorded on SEMUS unless regarded as serious, whereas now, everything – no matter how small, must be officially recorded. This will give a Local and National understanding of the numbers of cases of bullying. There was discussion about the children's understanding of bullying, what it is and how it manifests.

There is a section at the bottom of the SEMUS form to “Revisit”. Respect me antibullying course, in early stages of making an accredited programme to make sure that your antibullying plans are robust.

Cllr Buchanan advised the parent council that East Renfrewshire has always been proactive in discussing all the elements with all the relevant agencies, which is not always the case in some authorities. Prior to the pandemic there was slow growth in the number of reports but since the pandemic there has been a large increase in the number of allegations of anti-social behaviours. This policy/recording change should unify how all local authorities are recording and make sure that everyone is doing the same thing, making it easier to compare and process the information. Consistency and accuracy, making it easier to deal with the problems. Cllr Buchanan and the Cabinet Secretary for Education Co-chair SAGRABIS (Scottish Advisory Group on Relationships and Behaviour in Schools). [SAGRABIS provides advice to local and national government on behaviour and relationships in schools]. Cllr Buchanan also referenced the Behaviour in Scottish Schools Research (BISSR) report. [The overall aim of this study was to provide a robust and clear picture of relationships and behaviour in publicly funded mainstream schools and of current policy and approaches for supporting relationships and behaviour.]

5. School Sports Scotland

Crookfur received a renewal of our Gold School Sport Scotland award for 2024. We also won the Sports School of the Year for Primary Schools award last year. Recognition of work done in the school and the clubs being run. Ongoing improvements within the school include:

- A wide range of extra circular clubs at lunchtime and after school
- Participation in cluster and authority level events and competitions
- Staff participating in regular professional development
- Sports Leaders training P7
- Sports Committee
- Sports weeks and days

Gregor Wilson is a permanent member of staff after completing his NQT year with Crookfur last year and attended the meeting to tell us about Junior NBA League. Gregor played for a Glasgow Rens basketball team growing up and feels the multi-cultural experience and camaraderie of basketball made him the person he is. This made him keen to get involved in helping to run a club at the school. The club is for Primary 6s and 7s. They are involved in the Junior NBA League, which is a worldwide league linked to the NBA, and in our area is run by Basketball Paisley. Every team is allocated an NBA - Crookfur has the Portland Trailblazers, and our team wears a Trailblazers kit. The kids who are involved are the type who wanted to try a different sport, not the typical most common sports. They have grown in confidence since beginning to play as well as learning resilience if they lose. The team takes pride in their team and kit, and Gregor requests the PC funds team kit bags for the kids to keep their kits in good condition (they currently have 12 kits).

6. Financial Report

6.1 Financial report since the last meeting

		IN £	OUT £	BALANCE £
Balance at 4/12/23				10,132.47
Money in	Fun Day expenses	265.57		
	Easy Fundraising	50.26		
Money out	Nativity buses		430.00	
	Christmas Prizes		138.91	
Bank balance on 13/3/24				9,879.39
Money already assigned	New Outdoor area		5,000.00	
	Mrs Rattray fund		579.06	
	Xmas Party food		102.03	

	Charity boxes		17.00	
	Coffee jugs		50.00	
Available to spend				4131.30

6.2 Spending approved out of meeting

- None

6.3 Funding Requests from the school

- Sports kit bags for the Basketball team
- Quotes for a new sound system for the school hall and possibly for new modular staging (this would be a fundraising goal)

7. Parental engagement and involvement

7.1 Developing our School Community

Ongoing discussion around ideas for helping to maintain/build the sense of community that we risk being lost post-covid and with growing school, i.e. anything we can do differently with events etc?

7.2 Connect online sessions

None attended.

8. ERC Policy on Class Organisation in Primary Schools

East Renfrewshire Council has finalised and published the policy. Sheena has brought a copy of it to the meeting. The policy provides information about the reasons behind these reclassifications and guidance for schools. This policy is for the entire local authority so all schools will be consistent in their approach to class reorganisation. Feedback has always been that kids respond well to class changes in the long term.

9. Head Teacher Report

9.1 School roll: Crookfur 506, Family Centre 146

9.2 Staffing

Mrs Scoular (Family centre) is on Mat leave, when she returns she will return to the school. She will replace Miss Campbell in April. Mrs Grieve back in May and Mrs Lamont back in June.

9.3 Budget – Next session will see the first signs of the budget cuts/savings voted to be taken by the council in their meeting in Feb. It will see a reduction in staffing groups (early learning, business support staff, reduction in catering/janitors) and school meal price increase. Cllr Buchanan said the Council will get additional funding from the pension scheme that can be used to help with the budget cuts. Due to inflation, the budgets will always be stretched no matter what happens. Fundraising will become even more important as the school will rely on it more.

9.4 News and events

Parents evenings were well attended
 Committee meetings
 Sports development trips and competitions
 Book week events

10. Questions from the Parent Forum

None raised since last meeting.

11. Subcommittee Update

11.1 Fundraising and Social Group

Gillian Plews put an update in the weekly round up last week. There was a daytime meeting which got some new attendees and possibly rotate evening and daytime meetings to optimise accessibility. Decision to organise a Scavenger Hunt instead of Summer Fair. There will also be a sponsored Colour Run. There is a whatsapp group of helpers who help out as and when they can, rather than being committee members.

11.2 Diversity Group

A group of children will be Neurodiversity Ambassadors and will organise and educate throughout the school on what this term means. There will be a coffee and chat arranged for this. The ERC Educational Psychologist will also attend.

The LGBT subgroup has created a sway presentation following on from the workshop on stereotyping.

Creating a Crookfur Cultures Week after Easter to look at all the cultures within the school. Events will be organised around this as well as an Eid celebration. Local Authority guidance on Ramadan and how to support families in this. The school feel this has been helpful in the suggestions it has made, and the parent forum has been appreciating the measures put in place, such as lunchtime club for those fasting. There will be a breaking the fast staff event next week.

12. Any other business

- None

Date of next meeting

- Parent Council – w/c 22nd April 2024
- Diversity Group – Tuesday 14th May 2024 (online)
- Parent Council Chairs – 22nd May 2024
- Fundraising and Social Group - TBC
- ERC Equalities Forum – Wednesday 8th May 2024
- New East Renfrewshire Equalities Forum - TBC

Kari Gillies

Chair – Crookfur Primary School Parent Council