

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Wednesday 10th November 2021 AT 8pm
in EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

PRESENT: James Meneely, Natalie McMillan, Moira Forbes, Karen McGrady-Parker, Vicky Clark, Wendy Durie, Jennifer Nesbitt, Cathy Wilkie-Thompson, Adele Thomson, Beverly Stoner, Matthew Hughes, Glen Cartwright, John Anderson, Jacqui White

IN ATTENDANCE: Kate Sinclair (Acting Head Teacher), Judith Boulton-Jones (Acting Depute) & Shona McWilliam (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Shabnam Ijaz, Nilam Ijaz, Nick Bothwell, Graham Campbell

1. INTRODUCTION

James welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially our new members, John, Glen and Matthew.
Apologies were noted.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (1st September 2021)

Minutes approved and seconded. Shona will enter them onto the school's website

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Disabled Bays in car park. Kate has been outside monitoring the parking in the bays and it seemed to be ok though some cars were asked to move on as they did not have a blue badge. It does seem to become a lot more congested on the wet days. Kate has spoken to our Campus Cop, Karen. Unfortunately she and the rest of our Campus Cops have been seconded to Cop26 but she will be returning shortly to her duties at Eastwood and will continue to monitor it on Kate's behalf. Kate has also requested that Wardens visit when they can.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

a) Welcome new Parent Council Members

Welcomed to the Parent Council at Item 1.

b) Staffing Update

Kate confirmed that JP Murray (Technical) and Scott Higgins (PE) have successfully gained an Acting PT post at Woodfarm High, till June 22.

From Government funding we are able to invest in a shared Biology/Chemistry post. We also have a Drama vacancy to fill due to 2 teachers leaving, one going on an 18 month career break and one on maternity leave.

c) Covid 19 Update

Kate glad to confirm that our numbers are low, down to single figures which is good now that winter is approaching. The whole school including staff were flu vaccinated on the 21st October.

School ventilation update following the Scottish Government guidelines – now due to winter weather it is not necessary to have your classroom windows open all the time, it is left to the discretion of the teacher and how they feel, rooms can be purged before school, breaks, when no class in. During the exam time the same will apply in the exam halls.

d) **Recruitment for Permanent Head Teacher**

Post closed on 30th October and Interview to take place on Monday 22nd November. James will be one of the parents on the panel as well as Moira and he is looking for someone else to join them. You need to have completed the Councils' Recruitment and Selection training to be able to participate. Shona will be able to confirm if your training is up-to-date. Any notes of interests please contact James direct.

e) **Parent Equalities Forum - UNCRC**

Beverly attended and the meeting began with a quote provided at the forum, from Eleanor Roosevelt,

"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighbourhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerned citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world"

They were then told about Janusz Korczak: Polish Jewish Educator, Pedagogue, Author (1879-1942) - In his manifesto for children's rights in 1919;

The child has the right to love... love the child, not just your own

The child has the right to mistakes... there are no more fools among children than among adults

The child has the right to forgiveness...more often than not we are the harsh judges rather than their counsellors and consolers

The child has the right to education

The child has the right to respect for his grief.. even though it be for the loss of a pebble

Presentation went on to talk about the articles in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) - 54 Articles, three domains/ themes; Provision, Protection and Participation. Went on to talk about the General Principles; Article 2 - without discrimination, Article 3 - Best interest of the child, Article 6 - survival and development and Article 12 - Respect for the views of the child.

Discussed Rights Respecting Schools and incorporating UNCRC across the work of the council; training on children's rights for all council staff, desire to establish a network of Rights Respecting leaders in schools, involving parents and families and in particular ***** **the takeaway from the forum was the 'UNFEARTIES' movement.** "A nest of fearties is what they do not want" - From Edwin Morgan's poem 'Open the Doors' written for the opening of the Scottish Parliament in 2004.

The forum wanted us to spread the word about the Unfearties movement to all parents, families, care givers and encourage us all to 'join the movement. Poster attached.

6. **SQA Update** **Kate Sinclair/Judith Boulton-Jones**

Judith introduced herself to the members and took the parents through how the SQA exams will take place this year. Going forward we hope they will take place as normal in May. Monday 22nd November is the start of the S4 prelims. Validation of our exam papers will be completed by our other high schools. January will see the S5/6 pupils sit their prelims. S4 Assessment calendar was issued to pupils and parents earlier on in the term.

Health & Wellbeing is extremely important to us as a school and we have formed various groups to support our pupils - Targeted Groups, Support Study Groups - lunchtime and after school, quiet time to study in the library as well as S4 mentors working with pupils.

Parent Questions

- It has been in the news that SQA will be striking. Judith confirmed that we know no more than what was in the news. If we receive any further updates we will forward it to the parents by email.
- The Supported study timetable – pupils aren't always able to attend every session. Teachers understand that pupils can't attend and are willing to support when required. With the number of subjects offered and only five days in the week there will always be clashes. Maths offer 1-1 if a child is struggling.

7. Discussion Items

a) Education Reform Review

James attended the PC Chair's meeting last week where the Education Reform consultation which was led by Prof. Ken Muir was discussed. It was agreed that we wouldn't submit a response on behalf of the whole Parent Council but it is open to all parents if they wish to respond individually. Shona will circulate a link to the consultation, which closes on 26th November.

The consultation can be found at :-

<https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/independent-education-reform-review/>

Additionally, or instead, parents may wish to complete Connect's survey, which will inform their response to the consultation. This can be accessed at

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/36HZGWR>.

8. AOCB

Parent Questions

- Fire Alarms. Kate confirmed that yes through social media, all the East Renfrewshire schools had been targeted. We have had 7 up to now. The Fire Service provided a hard hitting presentation to the pupils. Kate mentioned that we have now introduced a new system for children being allowed out of class and because of this we were able to identify pupils who triggered the alarms.
- Pupils are not allowed out of class for the toilet. Kate mentioned that this is not correct and again social media is involved. Because of our new system, children are allowed out of class as long as they have an 'orange slip' which a teacher needs to complete and returned to them once the pupil returns to the class.
- Issues with the cafe being closed. Due to staff shortages and the fact that we have 3 areas to support, Kate took the decision to close the bottom café. Kate and the deputies took it in turn to make sure that every child was served at the canteen and allowed it to remain open until everyone was dealt with and had time to eat their lunch.
- Demerit/Merits system. New parents felt that there was no information from the school on how the system works. Kate did agree and said that they are at present working on various updates on the Demerit system, as well as how the braiding is achieved. They are working on making a video powerpoint and once completed will be shared with pupils/parents.
- Tik Tok app which displayed nasty comments about teachers. It seemingly has been a challenge across the schools. Judith confirmed that they have been in touch with the company to remove the page.
- PTA Advert Raffle for the full month of December. Cathy is looking for prizes and if anyone will like to donate, Shona is willing to store the gifts in the school office.
- Tuesday 16th November – S3 parents night. Still following the Scottish Government guidelines we are unfortunately not allowed to have face to face appointments so they will

be by telephone. Wendy confirmed that the S1 parent's nights by telephone run very smoothly. Kate said they the teachers are given the choice either to remain in school or to go home to make their calls.

Meeting dates for new session 21/22

Wednesday 19th January 22

Wednesday 23rd March 22

Wednesday 25th May 22 (including AGM)

School Telephone number: 0141 577 2200

School Email: schoolmail@eastwood.e-renfrew.sch.uk