

Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 18th June 2025

1 Apologies and confirmation of previous minutes

Due to IT issues, all staff other than HT Seanna Moore (SM) were unable to join.

Previous minutes confirmed.

2 Head Teacher's update

Returning to that later in the meeting (see below)

3 Afterschool update

SM confirmed that applications are all in. The school is now reviewing them will then be allocating places. SM hopes this will be communicated to parents before the end of term. Joanne Todd will not be managing afterschool. The position went out to internal advert. Interviews are due to take place on 25 June. There has also been a delay with the care commission signing off. The allocated person has gone off sick. SM keeping pressure on this. They need to just come out to the school and look at the toilets, facilities etc. SM will come in and meet with them over the summer.

Question from Steven McAuley, asking how the criteria is being applied in practice – i.e. are the criteria listed taken as a hierarchy or does each criteria have a weighting?

SM confirming it is a hierarchy in that families with two working parents or a single working parent will be prioritised before looking at the other criteria if there are places left. SM is hopeful it will be reviewed once the service is up and running. SM feels we need to look at who has the most complex needs. There is no weighting around that at the moment, but it does have an impact. SM confirmed that most of the people who have applied hopefully will get spots, but this will need to be reviewed going forward as many families need it. 24 families have applied.

Steven McAuley asking about ongoing review of criteria e.g. could be that a family may meet criteria in year 1 but not year 2 and then would have to make other arrangements. SM confirming that may be the case. Steven saying that more clarity around the criteria would be helpful. SM saying this priority is to get it up and running, keep it under review and try to iron out any issues. SM saying it is the manager you want to make these decisions going forward.

Steven then asking about the budget, and if this has changed. Mairi Jean Watkins (MJW) saying it has always been the case that 25k was going towards it and the rest is paid for by parents. SM saying it has been budgeted for 10 staff. She will try to get some more clarity and share that with parents. The difficulty is that some children need 1 to 1 support, some might need 2 to 1, some might need less than that. We would need to look at how that impacts upon the budget.

Lindsay Gall (LG) confirming that the criteria aimed at working parents i.e. people with no other childcare options, then built around that and how we can accommodate and support others if there is capacity beyond that. The additional criteria are to enable others to be considered. LG expects there is more demand than supply. It is very tricky. At the moment, a larger amount of the budget is being applied to afterschool. More families could benefit from holiday care and that needs to be improved but afterschool is needed enormously. We need to keep the pressure on.

4 Bus-single address issues

MJW saying that it has come to light that some people will struggle with the single address drop off. MJW and Brooke Moir (BM) met with Clare Crighton and Graeme Hay. There are a handful of families who simply cannot manage a single location pick up/drop off. Specific examples were given to CC and GH. These are families where it's not just about convenience, it's those with zero alternative. MJW confirming that ERC have agreed to look at it on a case by case basis for the people who got in touch with school or the PC to raise it as an issue. SM confirming CC is also due to discuss this with school staff tomorrow when coming in for another meeting.

MJW considers that massive progress has been made. It is expected that we will know buses, driver and guides and rough pick up times by the end of this week. The community pick up is a good option for those who can use it. CC and GH advised that 50% of the kids had a bespoke arrangement of some kind. That is not sustainable and impacts on others. They are trying to make the system fairer to everyone, but they will look at will look at exceptions on case by case basis where single pick up is genuinely unworkable.

Steven McAuley wishing to raise a few points about this. It is good that the PC have managed to meet with CC and GH. He has not be afforded the same courtesy. Steven believes this will have an impact on their family one day. They have benefitted from an alternative address in the same area. Continuing this for them will have little impact on the bus route. Steven said they raised this issue in March and were advised by school that their arrangement would continue. This was entirely at odds with what they are now being told by GH. They want to know who has made these decisions and on what basis before they take this further.

MJW advising that the PC have shared all updates on Facebook, and GH sent round minutes of the meeting with the sub group which were circulated. That has already been shared with parents. Where there has been any back and forth, we have shared it either via Facebook or communication from school. ERC's initial wording was that ad hoc changes wouldn't be possible. There is big difference between that at pre-arranged, permanent arrangements e.g. address A certain days and address B on others. The PC have done a lot of work on this with GH and have updated parents as much as possible. MJW confirming that the PC attend a lot of meetings, via different sub groups. It is difficult to give verbatim reports of what is said at each meeting but updates and summaries are providing.

MJW explaining that we can't take this any further now. The PC have done as much as we can but can't be arguing specific cases. Anyone who has raised that they have an issue, those names have been put forward. It's in the hands of transport now. SM, Nick Crossan and CC have been copied and will look at these cases on a case by case basis.

BM advising that are going to send out the information on Friday to most parents. GH is still very committed to info by Friday. It is hoped to include an indicative pick up and drop off time, which is a huge improvement. BM urging to look at the positives. Transport are trying to get it right. We have pled the common sense argument. They did listen and are trying to make things better for all.

Steven expressing concern that it's a direction of travel towards centralised pick ups. They have already agreed that's not an option and it feels like they are going back on that. MJW clarifying that is not what's being offered. It's a first stop pick up, which is completely different. A parent who needs an early pick up can take their child to the first stop. It's not centralised pick ups. It's there as an option for those you want it.

Steven asking what's to stop ERC just looking at budget and staffing just proceeding with a centralised pick up as the only option? MJW reiterating that is not happening.

Steven then sharing his screen with the equality impact assessment for the single address he had requested from ERC. Steven noting the current transport policy says IMS children will be home pick ups. They have already done an impact assessment on it. They are moving the presumption towards centralised pick ups.

MJW saying again that PC have been given assurances it won't be happening. First stop is an opt in, for those who want it. MJW suggesting there is not much to say other than what has already been said. Steven intends to take this further.

5 Review meetings

Parents are looking for clarity on these. Previously it was automatic, every year for all children. It now appears you need to ask for one. Parents need to know what the agreement is and what we should expect.

SM saying that it was being looked at as being a point of need. SM expects it to be minimum once per year, with more regular review if needed depending on the needs and circumstances of the child.

SM will organise this. She wants to have them in the diary. In the first instance, there will be fixed days – e.g. Tuesday for Primary, Thursday for secondary. This can be rearranged where necessary. Educational Psychology might not come to every meeting. If SM or parent feels that is necessary they will be invited. SM thinks there are young people who don't need such regular reviews and some who do. That won't just be SM's decision. She will liaise with staff and parents.

6 Pool update

Investigations are continuing. There is only one company in the UK they can use. Several others have had a look at the pool, but they need it to be done properly. They don't want it to have the same problems again. Not able to give a time timeline but it won't be this summer.

MJW noting that swimming if pool isn't available there is a duty to provide another for use by the school. Would have the added benefit of getting the kids out there into the community. SM confirming the PEF would support that. The younger ones have been using Eastwood pool. Eastwood High School are also going to give a slot to IMS. SM agrees all kids should have access to swimming.

7 Kiltwalk money progress

Katie Robson had a catch up with Kirsteen Mackay. Looking at the possibility of an outdoor classroom. Quotes have been obtained and we are now looking at grants. Kirsteen is leading on that. We need to have 3 quotes and then we look at funding. They would cover 87.5% but we need to cover the rest. It's depended on sizing. One option is £22k, we would have to pay 3k. Could be start of August to get funding in place. Larua Brookman (teacher) is researching grants. She will get in touch with Katie to progress.

8 Dropped Kerb

SM confirming the roads department attended, did an inspection and have made recommendations. We are just waiting for costings. Hoping to do the work early in

the summer. Stewarton Road speed limit signage is moving forward too. Should be in place for next term.

9 Communication-general/start of year/absences

Class to parent communication continues to be an issue. It varies significantly from class to class. Suggestion that we need to reach an agreement to manage expectations. There are various issues. Teacher absence if often not communicated. Parents are not informed, and there are no seesaw updates for days. It is important for parents if they know if class teacher is off longer than a couple of days. Not having seesaw up and running before the start of the new term is problematic. Parents have no way of sharing relevant information with staff. Request that this be checked to see if this can be a bit smoother this year.

SM advising that she spoke to some parents about this at coffee and chat. It was a real theme. SM wants to set up a working group with parents and teachers so we have a balance. She needs to be mindful about the working time agreement for staff, and also looking at what we use seesaw for. If there sensitive issues, SM would prefer it came direct to SLT rather than via seesaw.

Regarding teacher absence, the SLT need to agree whose responsibility this is and decide who

will be responsible for letting parents know. SM conceding that it is a bit of a free for all at the moment. Remits are not clear and they need to sort that.

BM giving example of her child's teacher having phoned on the inservice day one year to ask how had the summer been and what do I need to know? This made the parent feel really confident and reassured. BM appreciates that's a lot of calls but parents would really appreciate it and it might assist teacher too.

SM suggesting it would be hard to get teachers to do that. CPD is relentless on in service days. SM could do it in the couple of day prior to inservice, but it's about building relationships with the3 class teacher.

SM aware that seesaw not set up for a few days last time. If the teachers are too swamped, we could provide an update but hoping to have things up an running.

10 Uniform rail

Proposal to reinstate the pre-loved uniforms ail that parents could access. It would be helpful to have this set up in reception so people don't need to ask. Suggestion that it should always be available not just coming out at events. SM agreeing with this. One of the parents has agreed to progress this/

11 Head Teacher update from SM

Issues not already covered:

(a) School improvement plan

This is nearly completed. Application for “Rights Respecting School” certification. Will look to this as an umbrella to better support children in distress and staff dealing with this in school. This is coming on the back of the new policy on seclusion and restraint. This will be covered in day 2 of the in service with a company coming in to offer training.

(b) Communication and Literacy

SM wants to look with a more forensic lens around what we are teaching. New tech has been introduced but there is also a place for low tech. We need to be thinking about what is the right thing to use and when. Colourful semantics is very good for teacher. Also looking at high tech options for AAC like TD snap, proloquo to help support communication.

(c) Parent Groups

Looking to introduce family learning sessions and external speakers coming in eg to the coffee and chat, such as Sleep Scotland, info from Skills Development Scotland, setting up walking group. A form will be sent round at the start of next year to engage with parents about this.

(d) Quality Assurance

Want to make sure things are at a certain standard. Katie Robson is going to come in and do some work with the senior leadership team around leadership and do some implementing change management. Aim to see continuous improvement. We want to make the curriculum better.

12 AOB

A number of parents have queried the lack of formal PE lessons. There are no formal PE slots. Running about in the MOD is not the same thing as a structured PE curriculum. MJW has previously stressed the importance of PE given the need for early intervention in encouraging active and healthy lifestyle for the kids. SM saying they are looking at getting a PE teacher with funding from the PEF. There is going to be a real focus on PE in the secondary school too. SM

saying one of the classes had the chance to do horseriding last term. It was a really excellent experience. Hoping to roll that out to other classes next year. Plan also to make use of the Yard at Linn Park.

13 Close

