



## Mearns Primary Parent Council (MPPC)

### Minutes

12 Nov 2018

(6.45pm at MPS premises)

<b>Meeting of</b>	Mearns Primary Parent Council	
<b>Held on</b>	Monday 12 November 2018	
<b>Present</b>	Adrian Carragher (MPPC Chair), Zhada Robertson (Clerk, MPPC), Sharon Hunter (HT), Claire Noble (DHT), Denise Donnelly (DHT), Roz Horne (parent), Bally Bhatti-Dosanjh (parent), Kavitha Kumar (parent), Cllr Jim Swift, Cllr Charlie Gilbert, Cllr Caroline Bamforth..	
<b>Apologies</b>	Cllr B Grant and Maidenhill PS steering group members.	
<b>Item Discussed</b>		<b>Actions</b>
<b>Welcome and Introduction.</b>	The Chair (Adrian) welcomed all attendees to the meeting of Mearns Primary Parent Council.	
<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b>	All attendees agreed that the minutes would be circulated by email for approval.	<b>Action:</b> Clerk to circulate draft minutes for approval prior to next meeting date.
<b>Headteacher's report</b>	<p>Miss Hunter noted the imminent departure of Mrs J McGregor, who will be taking up a depute position at Carolside PS next month. Interviews for appointing Mrs McGregor's successor will take place on 22 Nov. All present took the opportunity to wish Mrs McGregor all the best in her new job.</p> <p>Miss Hunter highlighted the recent change in focus to playful pedagogy, with many staff attending an Early Years conference to learn more about this change in approach to the curriculum.</p> <p>Miss Hunter was delighted to report the successful start of Mearns Masters last year and plans to build on this success for 2018-19.</p> <p>The parent council and councillors were also informed of the school's participation in a transition review and eagerly awaited the resulting report.</p> <p>Miss Hunter was pleased to announce the opening of the new kitchen at the school. Watch out for the promotional video of the opening.</p>	

	<p>MPS will be participating in “Into Film” again this year, with all pupils having the chance again to visit the cinema.</p>	
<p><b>MPPC Chair report</b></p>	<p>Adrian Carragher (Chair) informed the meeting of his attendance at the Parent Council Chairs’ Forum on 3 October (see attached minute of the meeting). He noted that one of the key items of discussion related to changes to the Educational Psychology Service and asked MPS senior management of views of this change</p> <p>Mrs Donnelly noted the importance of equity across the authority and that MPS did have access to psychologist services, but needed to be mindful of the pooled resource provision available.</p> <p>Cllr Bamforth noted the importance of discussing the relationship between education, health and social care and important to “normalise” language particularly relating to mental health.</p>	
<p><b>Any other business</b></p>	<p><u>Maidenhill Primary School update</u></p> <p>Miss Hunter noted that questions raised by affected parents were currently being collated by the Maidenhill PS Steering Group and would be placed on the school website with answers, where available.</p> <p>Deputes, Mrs Donnelly and Mrs Noble highlighted the difficulty in consulting with nurseries in relation to P1 intake for the new school, given their own experience of consulting with around 19 nurseries for MPS.</p> <p>Councillors restated that there was no guarantee that a child who lives within a catchment area for a school is guaranteed a place at that school. Places depend on several factors, including timings of other placement requests, spaces available and teaching staff in post.</p> <p>Miss Hunter noted that the interview panel for the appointment of a Headteacher for the new school would consist of at least two parents who were currently members of the Maidenhill PS Steering Group and that mandatory ERC interview training would be in place over the next few weeks.</p> <p>Miss Hunter also noted that permanent staff appointments would be likely to take longer to put in place and that the first year is likely to pool on supply teachers. Cllr Bamforth noted that ERC currently had 120 NQTs, some of which could be posted to the new school.</p> <p>MPPC, MPS senior management and councillors all agreed that affected parents should continue contact with the MPS, but focus questions relating specifically to the school to the steering group, so that any concerns are fed into the transition process.</p>	

	<p><u>Health and Wellbeing - Puberty in primary schools - curriculum and practical measures to assist pupils and parents</u></p> <p>Zhada Robertson asked for details on how prepared the school was for puberty related issues arising, given that many primary age pupils are now reaching puberty in years P6 and P7. Mrs Donnelly explained the breadth of the curriculum starting from early years which covered body related issues. She also noted that girls starting / having periods at school were assisted by office staff. Mrs Hunter and Cllr Bamforth added that there would soon be sanitary protection available in the girls' P6/P7 toilets, with all pupils being made aware of the reasons for this provision and the need to respect privacy.</p> <p>This discussion, though brief, covered a number of key aspects relating to health and wellbeing (e.g. mental health, body awareness, period poverty) and therefore the parent council is keen to gather parental views on what other topics you would find useful to cover, to obtain information or answers to questions which are not always as readily available from the school website.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> MPS / ERC to provide sanitary provision in P6/P7 girls' toilets.</p>
<p><b>Future meeting dates</b></p>	<p>Next meeting of MPPC will take place on <b><u>4 February 2019</u></b>.</p> <p>All meetings to take place at MPS at 6.45pm, unless otherwise indicated.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> School office to ensure date/s communicated to parents.</p>