



NETHERLEE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Netherlee Parent Council Meeting –22nd January, 2020

Present				
	Debby Biddles	DB		Lisa Gold
	Lesley Cook	LC		Julie Carenduff
	Adam Capek	AC		Tennant Stephenson
	Carole Chalmers	CC		Chris Fawbert
	Felicity Rose	FR		Fiona Khan
	Julie Roberts	JR		Hannah Bayes
	Yvonne Donaldson	YD		Lynn Sweeney
	Cllr Stewart Miller	SM		Yvonne Donaldson
	Alan Martin	AM		Lorna Wharton
				LW

Apologies: Alison McCosh, Angie Brand, Jane Thomson, Kaneez Fizza, Marie Owens, Cllr Lafferty

Observers: Graeme McLean, Lisa MacLaughlin, Victoria Pearson, Chris McVicar, Dorothy Buchanan, David, McDonald, Gillian Hunter, Lorna Hurst

Invited Guests: Donald Finlayson (DF), East Renfrewshire Council (ERC) Music Services

Minutes from Wednesday 27th November

Actions from Previous Minutes

No Actions

Proposed: AC
Seconded: FR

ERC Music Services

DF spoke about the music opportunities offered with ERC. Netherlee Primary School is the only Primary School in Scotland to have a dedicated Music Teacher, Mr Watson. Mr Watson is part of the school's compliment of teachers.

Pupils at Netherlee Primary School have the following opportunities:

1. At the end of P1 - attend singing games and rhymes at Williamwood Music Centre (WMC) on Saturday mornings.
2. At end of P3 - have the chance to be assessed for suitability for Violin, Viola or Cello lessons at the start of P4. Children that are selected will be offered lessons either within school time or at WMC on a Saturday. Assessment is defined as 'suitability to the instrument' rather than a musicality test, physical ability and a sense of 'pitch'. If a pupil is not deemed 'suitable' at this stage then he/she is encouraged to attend the school choir and/or the choir at WMC on Saturdays.
3. P5 - opportunity to learn Accordion, Bagpipes and Scots Fiddle at WMC on Saturdays.
4. At end of P5 - children are offered a trial of Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn and Guitar. Lessons start in P6.
5. P7 - there is the opportunity to learn Percussion.

There is currently no resource for vocal solo or Piano as they tend to require 1:1 lessons.

There is no preference given to children who have free school meals, are young carers or who live in more deprived areas. DF agreed that they are actively trying to boost numbers in more deprived areas through various initiatives although this is proving challenging.

Children with Additional Support Needs (ASN) are welcomed by the Instrumental Music Services (IMS) and are encouraged, like all children, to take up the most appropriate instrument for him/her.

If a particular instrument is oversubscribed in school, e.g. violin, lessons will be offered at WMC on Saturdays.

East Renfrewshire IMS can loan instruments for 2 terms then if children are continuing with their instrument they are encouraged to buy. The very expensive instruments e.g. Bassoon, larger Saxophones, are on loan for the duration of the student's school career, as long as the student continues to take part in ERC orchestra/ ensembles.

Points of interest

- Maximum number of pupils in each music lesson would be 4, although it is often less
- If a pupil is entitled to free school meals or is a carer music lessons are free
- If a pupil is sitting an SQA music exam music lessons are free if using the instrument for the exam
- There is a sibling discount of 25% for any second and subsequent siblings learning a musical instrument.
- For the price of the music lessons, ERC guarantees a minimum of 30 lessons per year. If this is not achieved then a rebate will be organised, e.g. when lessons fall on a Monday 30 lessons may not be achieved.
- There is now the opportunity learning one instrument to take up a second instrument at WMC on Saturdays.
- If a child does not try out for an instrument at the given timeline it can be taken up at a later time. ERC IMS should be contacted via their website.

All information and more is available on ERC IMS website. This can be accessed searching on line or via a link on the Netherlee Primary School and Nursery Class website. ERC IMS will be soon be launching a parental app.

Equalities Forum Meeting

TS reported back about the recent Forum held at Barrhead High School.

Michael Wield of Stonewall Scotland gave a presentation on LGBT and how individuals fall into each category. There was also a focus on trans and transitioning.

LGBT issues are covered in Secondary Schools. The Scottish Government is recommending that LGBT education takes place in Primary Schools where there should be a resource to support children.

Useful website: www.lgbtyouth.org.uk

New toilets built in ERC schools will by design be gender neutral. There are currently no plans to refurbish the toilets at Netherlee Primary School.

MUGA Update

- 1) Planning - application is submitted. Questions to fulfil application have been sent and are in the process of being answered. Owner will be Education Department.
- 2) Communication to support grant applications -
 - 1) questionnaire to parents/ carers - 278 response rate - 95% positive; 4% negative; 1% require more information
 - 2) children's - opinions being collated
 - 3) teachers - opinions being collated first review looks overwhelmingly positive
 - 4) Clarkston Sports Hub - working with Julia Walker from Sports Hub Development Manager, East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure
- 3) Funding - Funding required will be in the region of £300,000. This will be kept by ERC finance department via a
 - 1) Sports Scotland Grant - in development
 - 2) Stamperland Residents Association - proposal submitted. They have requested that we get in touch on gaining some funding. Feel too big to support as a single entity.
 - 3) MacTaggart and Mickel - no funding currently as planning for 14 flats on ground of Williamwood Golf Club rejected
 - 4) Other sources to be contacted on planning progressing.
- 4) Project Management - ERC to assign Project Management supplier

AC highlighted that it would be worthwhile not discounting the opinions of those opposed to the pitch conversion for environmental reasons.

Action: DB to explore with ERC and landscape architect.

Teaching of Modern Languages

YD explained that the Scottish Curriculum has 8 areas of equal importance however it is not stipulated a minimum or maximum teaching time for any area

7 areas are

1. Literacy and English including French and Mandarin
2. Maths and Numeracy
3. Technologies
4. Sciences
5. Health and Wellbeing - including PE
6. Expressive Arts - including Music, Art and Drama
7. RME
8. Social Studies

Within ERC there is guidance which stipulates that Languages, Maths and Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing should have a minimum of 6 hours per week.

Scottish Government has identified that Modern Languages are less popular now at National 5 and Higher Level. ERC Education Department is carrying out a review of Modern

Languages, part of which is looking at the teaching and learning of French in a sample of nursery, primary and secondary establishments. Netherlee Primary School and Nursery Class is one of the schools to be inspected as part of the review process.

Once completed an action plan will be compiled which will then be incorporated into the School Improvement Plan when appropriate. Mrs Sweeney and/ or Ms Bell, our Modern Languages leads, will share the results of the review when they are available.

YD explained that teachers in ERC are given more guidance by way of a framework for each curricular area. The requirement is that children should be secure in the skills covered in each level framework so that they are ready for the move to a more 'specialist' approach at high school.

FR added that having lived abroad that she felt Primary Schools in Scotland are not preparing children for the learning of Modern Languages in High School for future life.

YD advised that ERC are utilising Scottish Government monies to train ‘Language Leaders’ who will receive training on the teaching of languages abroad over the course of the next 3 years during holiday time. Ms Bell, Mrs Sweeney and Miss Cheape have been appointed as our Language Leaders in Netherlee.

Head Teacher’s Report: update on the ongoing uniform consultation

YD highlighted that the purpose of the ongoing consultation is to gather views. She is keen to know and understand parents/ carers views on the current uniform and any proposed changes. The process of collecting and collating individual views is more time consuming than sending out a survey however YD feels that it is crucial to gather this level of detail.

At the date of the meeting YD had received between 50 - 60 responses. YD shared with the meeting that she was disappointed that, in her opinion, a small number of responses had been of a confrontational nature and was aware that this was also the case via some social media class groups. YD explained that she feels this is unwarranted however stressed that she was extremely grateful that most feedback was constructive and very helpful in gathering views on the subject. All views are being considered very carefully by YD.

YD asked PC members and parent body to continue to engage in the consultation. She reminded the meeting that she would be available at the uniform evening on 29th January to meet any parents/ carers who would like to discuss this further with her.

YD emphasised that there would be not cutoff date for any elements of current school uniform and families can still continue to hand down uniform items until no longer wearable.

CC asked if there was no end date for the consultation what the next step would be.

YD confirmed that she would gather pupil and staff feedback after the adult perspective was understood and would thereafter send out further communication to parents/ carers. If there are elements of the current uniform that are going to change or no longer going to be sold by the PTA these will not be offered for sale at the uniform sale in May.

Dorothy Buchanan voiced concern that the consultation proposals didn’t seem to be inclusive of children with ASN.

YD acknowledged her concern and reassured the meeting that the school would continue to work with parents/ carers of children with ASN as they do at the present, to ensure children feel comfortable at school every day.

LH asked if YD would be responding to individual emails. YD confirmed that, as noted in her initial correspondence sent home, she would not be responding to individual emails but would be available at the uniform evening on 29th January if any parent wanted to discuss feedback they had sent by email or any other matter.

FR felt that it would be beneficial to re-iterate to parents/ carers in another communication, perhaps in the Friday bundle, including how to send in comments and providing a timescale for feedback to parents/ carers. YD agreed to do this.

DB thanked everyone for attended and closed the meeting.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 11th March 2020 at 6.30 pm, Meeting Room

Future meeting dates for 2020 session is 27th May 2020

