



## NETHERLEE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Netherlee Parent Council

#### Meeting - 24th February 2021

<b>Present</b>	Hannah Bayes	HB		Harriet Boyle	HB
	Jennifer Bryant	JB		Handri Cronje	HC
	Kaneez Fizza	FK		Emma Gibson	EG
	Trisha Hamilton	TH		Joanna Haw	JH
	Justin Haccius	JH		Fiona Khan	FK
	Mike Law	ML		Fiona McMillan	FM
	Richard Owen	RO		Victoria Pearson	VP
	Felicity Rose	FR		Tennant Stephenson	TS
	Jane Thomson	JT		Dorothy Buchanan (PTA)	DB
	Yvonne Donaldson (NPS)	YD		Councillor Annette Ireland	AI
	Julie Robertson (NPS)	JR		Councillor David MacDonald	DM
	Lynn Sweeny (NPS)	LS		Councillor Stewart Miller	SM
	Angela Kerr (NPS)	AK			

Apologies: Carole Chalmers, Chris Fawbert, Adam Capek

- 1) **Approval of Minutes of Meetings** held 25th November 2020 and 3rd December 2020.

Some members noted that they had not received the Minutes.

- 2) **Resignation of Members:** Alan Martin, Lorna Grey resigned. TS noted that space was now available on the Parents Council, The Parents Forum should be notified in case individuals wanted to self-nominate to the PC

- 3) **Headteachers Report** (YD, LS, JR, AK)

- a) ER Equality Forum: YD encouraged participation of Netherlee PC Members in the East Renfrewshire (ER) Equality Forum. Separate structures for staff and parents are blended in

the ER Equality Forum. Issues covered include Child Poverty, LGBT+, Literacy Trust etc. A Newsletter is issued once a term. Next meeting: 16 March 2017, 7pm. Contact the school directly to participate.

- b) ER Local Improvement Plan. Suggestions for priorities contributing to the Netherlee Primary School Improvement Plan (SIP) should be collected in the near future (March) to feed-up. The Netherlee SIP feeds into the Williamwood Cluster Plan (which groups the schools in the area), and on up to the ER Education Authority SIP. The Netherlee PC Communication Strategy could be an effective means to solicit views.
- c) Netherlee Nursery Provision (1140) allows 30 hrs nursery care following a pattern of either 8am – 6pm (3 days) or 9am – 3pm (5 days). Up until now pupils have brought their own packed lunch. Funds have been awarded by ERC to install two kitchens within the existing building so that hot meals can be provided to pupils from August.
- d) Student clubs / transition: House Captains have proposed plan to create a ‘virtual time capsule’ of memories of lockdown (initially P-7). Covid-19 appropriate activities are being planned for Red Nose Day. Aim to cut down on use of plastic and improve ecological impact. On Transition – Hoped that the visit to Williamwood can go ahead in April. Alternative arrangements include teachers from Williamwood holding on-line introductory classes.
- e) Bikeability – Activity is planned for May. Implementation under Covid will be as usual, ie not exclude provision of bikes to children without them (response to question from FR).
- f) Recovery Planning :

YD requested that ideas for managing return continue to be shared with the school. During lockdown three areas were prioritised (literacy, numeracy, health and well-being). School has received additional staff for the recovery: 2 x PSA’s and 1 x additional teacher (until June). These will work supporting across classes, where required.

Children will be assessed through looking at jotters, observing at play, groupings as appropriate. However, during the forthcoming recovery period, children will be supported to remain in existing groupings as school staff appreciate that all children will have had unique lockdown experiences.

In follow up discussion, YD clarified (following question from TS on how assessment is targeted) that pupils are assessed/ performance tracked individually, by group, by class, by stage, by school. Some of this information is available to parents through the Report Cards which are sent out (Early Level). Information held on pupils is available to parents through an Information Access request. Parents with any concerns on their children’s well-being or learning should contact the school. The improved engagement with parents during lockdown is welcomed and should continue. Parent / Teacher meetings will be held later, possibly May, to give teachers time to gather a wide range of information on their pupils.

FR raised concerns that proposed P4-P7 return was only 2 weeks before Easter holiday break, pupils would get into routine and then be again disrupted. YD explained that she was pleased about this return date as children would get to come into school and settle back in, which will help if any children have any worries, ahead of the Spring holiday period.

TS raised comments made by the ER Director of Education on potential budget cuts and recovery over 3 years. YD not able to comment on budget at this time. (AI later clarified ER budget process). Focus on core areas means other areas such as modern languages, science, art will have to be looked at. Proposal to focus School Improvement Plan on core areas.

Many benefits of lockdown teaching will be retained, including greater use of digital technology for parent involvement, e.g. allowing more numerous but smaller groups that focus on specific issues, or the possible use of video links in homework etc.

ER Education Psychologist has put together 'Healthier Minds' packs to support mental health. These will be used by the school and are also available to parents.

P4-P7 proposed for 15 March (tbc), plans will be shared. Health and wellbeing even more important for older pupils (more adversely affected by lockdown).

Friday Fun (clarification): proposal to spend less time on screens by providing a list of options for "stepping away from screen" opportunities. Slightly overtaken by events with return of schools.

Activity (biking / walking): RO raised provision of school bus to Williamwood HS and possibilities of walking / biking there. FR noted that this issue was on the Williamwood HS PC agenda. AI identified ER Active Travel lead (John Skelton) and informed that Family Scotland provide family cycling lessons.

- 4) **Homework Policy** – discussion postponed
- 5) **Internal Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> January**
  - a) Roles and responsibilities of Vice-Chair – discussion centred around role of Vice Chair as critical friend / counter-balance / sense-check versus the collective responsibility of the PC to do this, and on the process of where this information would go (TS, FR, DB, HC, JE).
  - b) Relationship between the PTA/PC – TS of the view that these are separate organisations.
  - c) Update on Constitution - some delays but will be ready shortly. Key issues flagged were the approval process for the reviewed constitution, financial management provisions, Code of Conduct or other management provisions, relations with PTA/PC. FR noted an overlap in some areas of responsibility with other sub-groups.
  - d) Remit of PC - TS had circulated a document that defined the remit of PC in detail. JT suggested a short elevator pitch would help understanding with wider parent body. EG has circulated a suitable draft summary / 1 pager that explains the remits of both PC and PTA. Members to pass comments to EG. FM will format in line with newsletter presentation once agreed.
  - e) Communication sub-group – JT explained the documents (draft Newsletter, Survey and Communication Sub-Group proposals). JT asked if any objections to issuing Survey and Newsletter – none raised. Some members had not had a chance to review the documents. PC members should review the Survey and newsletter for content and functionality and to revert to JT with comments, copied to all without opening a discussion  
 Discussion on various means of communication. Survey would be best way to identify preferred means. Proposals for improved communication include WhatsApp groups (but can exclude), dedicated Apps etc. YD offered to contact ER QOI Brendan Doherty for PC on media tech and will supply contact, if he agrees.
- 6) **ERC Education Dept PC Chairs Forum** – limited activity, discussion postponed
- 7) **MUGA** – Sub-group formed
- 8) **ERC Education Department Local Improvement Plan** – TS to revert to PC