

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Everyone Attaining, Everyone Achieving through Excellent Experiences

Minutes of the meeting of the Primary Pupil Council held on Wednesday 21 October 2015 in St. John's Primary School

Present:

Mhairi Shaw, Director of Education
Gerard McLaughlin, Quality Improvement Officer
Nicky Joiner, Catering Co-ordinator

Pupil Council Representatives

Molly Muir, Carlibar PS	Chloe Craig, St. John's PS
Sarah Docherty, Carlibar PS	Scott Coyle, St. John's PS
Laura Thomson, Crookfur PS	Alfie McCann, St. Mark's PS
Toby Provan, Crookfur PS	Mirren McClune, St. Mark's PS
Lewis Brown, Cross Arthurlie PS	Elise Kelly, St. Thomas' PS
Millie Townsend, Cross Arthurlie PS	Orla Cameron, St. Thomas' PS
Ali Malik, Mearns PS	Georgia Salmond, Springhill & Auchenback PS
Max Hopkin, Mearns PS	Kalib Cunningham, Springhill & Auchenback PS
Rachel Canning, Neilston PS	Mhairi Carlaw, Uplawmoor PS
Jessica Anderson, Neilston PS	Max Wengel, Uplawmoor PS

In Attendance:

Aileen Vance, Admin Assistant (acting)

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

3. CHIRP

St. John's presented their 'Chirp' system. The pupils explained that 'Chirp' is like Twitter and is used within GLOW. Comments can be shared on-line or can be written down and added to 'chirp slips', which are put into the two chirp boxes available in the school. Weekly 'Chirp' comments are discussed at school assembly. Video clips of pupils were presented to show 'Chirp' was easy to use, good for getting ideas out and sharing opinions.

St. John's is the only school currently using 'Chirp', but it can be set up on other schools GLOW pages quite easily.

M Shaw asked if other schools would be interested in using the 'Chirp' system and suggested their Head Teachers be informed about it. Mearns PS spoke about their blogging system, which is similar to 'Chirp'.

M Shaw said if items could be added more spontaneously, more people may use it. M Shaw then suggested that pupils could have access to ICT suites during break times and lunch to blog and 'Chirp'. Another idea was to put extra computers in street areas or provide specific times for computer use. It was also suggested that when schools have wifi access there could be set times to use school ipads or the pupils own tablets to 'Chirp'.

M Shaw also discussed how 'Chirp' could be used to discuss and gather views about Attainment.

4. JAMES JOHNSTONE – FAIR FOOD FINE FOOD

James spoke about the 90kg Rice Challenge and how this approach goes towards helping young people attend Secondary schools in Malawi. Pupils need to think of fun and exciting ways to sell rice for example, rice cakes, rice pudding, decorated bags for the rice etc. James explained that everyone doing a little would help a lot and they would also be learning about Fair Trade and Malawi while they were helping.

Some schools went on to explain what they do for Fair Trade:

St. Thomas'	Fair Trade Stall with food and also homemade items
Mearns	Fair Trade Stall and they also have a Fair Trade Council
Neilston	Take part in Fair Trade Fortnight
Cross Arthurlie	Sells Fair Trade Chocolate
Crookfur	Have taken part in the 90kg challenge. They have sent letters to supermarkets and recently Morrison's started to sell Fair Trade chocolate
St. Mark's	Made bracelets to sell for Fair Trade

M Shaw wants to make it bigger than the Fair Trade Fortnights and the 90kg Rice Challenge. Pupils were asked to think about how to make Fair Trade more accessible throughout the year. Pupils were asked to explain to their schools the Rice Challenge. James will get leaflets sent out to the Head Teachers.

5. INTRODUCTIONS

M Shaw introduced herself along with the rest of the Education staff in attendance. M Shaw also explained the role of the Pupil Council.

Pupils all introduced themselves and gave a short description of what their pupil councils were currently doing/involved in.

6. SCHOOLS MEALS

St. John's, Neilston and Springhill & Auchenback went through a list of likes and dislikes from the different stages of their schools. M Shaw stated that the catering team are working towards better options for vegetarian/halal etc. N Joiner said points were noted at the pupil consultation and the catering team have been looking at different hot dog options. N Joiner also said the pupils should feel free at any point to mention to herself or any member of the catering team if they have a problem or an issue with any of the food. Most schools also said that P1-3 always got to go for the first sitting at lunch, although Springhill and Auchenback used to do this and St. Mark's currently have a weekly rota system. M Shaw suggested that there be a rota system for lunch sittings for the schools who currently don't use one.

Cross Arthurlie brought up healthy option choices. M Shaw explained that pizza/burgers are fine in moderation and N Joiner stated that due to strict nutritional laws that ingredients used by our catering service are healthy.

7. AOCB

M Shaw asked pupils to come to the next meeting with the following information:

- How is the Pupil Council Involved in improving learning in schools?
- How are they ensuring their voices are improving learning?

M Shaw stated that she liked the Pupil Council meeting being held in a school and suggested that is what happens next time.

It was suggested the pupil council meet in Cross Arthurlie PS for the next round of meetings and in Mearns PS for the last round.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

27, April 2016 (Venue tbc)