



Maidenhill Primary School Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 4th February 2020

Present: Lindsay Brown (Chair), Alasdair McDonald (HT), Alison Shaw (DHT), Councillor Caroline Bamforth, Councillor Jim Swift, Leigh O'Donnell, Manpreet Virdee, Lee de Franca, David Bickley, Lauren Kendrick, Claire Lamont, Susan Hamill, Saadia Sohail, Wendy Nixon, Sabrina Chalmers, Alison Langley

Apologies: Gillian Craig, Ali Akbar, Gillian McNeill, Councillor Barbara Grant, Rev. Joe Kavanagh (Mearnskirck), Dave Lazonby (Newton Mearns Baptist Church) and Jennifer Robertson (withdrawn from the parent council).

1. Previous minutes discussed
1. Chairperson's report – available upon request from maidenhillparentcouncil@gmail.com

Welcome to councillors and thanks to all parents who helped at the nursery and school nativities, and to all parents and businesses for kindly donating raffle prizes. Annie and Lesley in the office thanked for all their support. All businesses were also thanked via a letter. Thanks also given to all that helped with the bags featuring pictures of all children and staff. Congratulations given on the official school opening ceremony and tartan day celebrations, as well as a successful author visit.

2. Head Teacher's report - available upon request from schoolmail@maidenhill.e-renfrew.sch.uk
3. Treasury report/finance update – We have a balance of £751. Currently there is a £90 loss on the bags, but these are still on sale via the school office and could be sold at future events too. 79 bags were ordered (selling at £5 each). At the moment there is £613 profit from festive fundraising. A raffle licence has been granted by the council (£40), and in future years this will enable tickets to be sold in advance. Renewal is £20 a year.
4. AOCB

- a. Possibility of school bus to Mearns Castle from Maidenhill was raised. This would depend on the distance and also on available walking routes. It was suggested parents might pay towards a bus *Councillor Bamforth to follow up on this.*

Post meeting update – Councillor Bamforth discussed with First, SPT and Education as well as the suggestion of extending the no.4 bus route. As Maidenhill is in the 3 mile limit, there are no plans for a bus currently. A further update will be given at the next meeting.

- b. Walking routes – as yet the paths proposed on the master plan have not been started by the developers. The issue of water from the building site flooding the Langrig path (at the bottom of Mearnskirck, connecting up to the Cala homes) was discussed. The councillors updated that a new spring had maybe arisen due to movement caused by building. Attempts are being made to manage this water, and it is hoped a pipe can be installed, this is pending legal permission, and it is unclear who owns the land. *Councillor Swift to follow up on this.*

Post meeting update from Councillor Swift - Strategic Services have been in discussion with the developer about the path network and it is progressing. The planners have no timelines on the network completion though to Maidenhill PS. There is no definite timescale as yet for the connection with the school as options are being considered for it's construction.

- c. Charitable status – the parent council were asked to consider if we should apply to become a charity, and were asked to look at Connect . <https://connect.scot/resources/can-our-parent-council-be-registered-charity>
- d. LGBT meeting - Lindsay and Miss Shaw both attended presentations by the equality forum and it was offered to share this information with other parents.
- e. School lunch for p1 parents with children – this will be part of induction for new intake of pupils. This wasn't possible when current p1 children started, due to establishing the new canteen, however, it could be arranged if current p1 parents do want this to happen.
- f. Music lessons – East Renfrewshire offer a wider range of musical activities, and instrumental lessons are offered at p4 and above. Currently for p3 and p4, Mrs Lile comes once a fortnight using the Kodaly method, which is followed up by class teachers. Miss Waddell and Mr Keir both have a musical interest. P2 and p3 children can take part in singing games and rhymes at Williamwood school. *Mr McDonald to contact Linda Fenn to ensure the current p1s will be invited to the singing games and rhymes, and to ensure that*

instrumental lessons will be offered at the relevant times to pupils (e.g. strings in p4, wind in p6).

- g. Languages – this is currently hard to resource as there is not currently a specialist language teacher, however, this concern has been raised by Mr McDonald to the Quality Improvement office and discussed with the head of languages at Mearns Castle too. Unfortunately, there wasn't the option for a member of staff to attend an intensive training course as this occurred before MH was established. On a temporary basis, parents have been asked to volunteer to help with crafts and games to start introducing basic language words. Activities will be provided by the school, for approx. 1 hour a week, a basic knowledge of French would be beneficial but not even essential. A native speaking teacher will be starting Mandarin with p5s in April and then for p6/7.
- h. Coffee mornings –Thursday 27th February before STEM fayre.
- i. Fundraising - Rag Bag collection – this could be done, but we need to check if there are a minimum number of bags that need to be collected, to avoid any charges. A possibility of having a collection via tokens in Asda/Waitrose was proposed, but we may need to be a charity for this. *Alison to follow up on these fundraising ideas.*
- j. Easy Fundraising – *David to check if parent council need to be a registered charity for this.* Councillor Bamforth gave the name of Eaglesham Primary (Simon Calvert) to contact.
- k. Credit Union – Miss Wood will work to try and set this up at school. Some children (e.g. from Mearns Primary and Hazeldene Family Centre) may already have accounts. *Leigh has sent off for a pack and will liaise with Miss Wood.* If parent helpers are required, Alison and Gillian are willing to help.
- l. Disco – 19th March. Flyer has been circulated. Parent helpers needed and there will be a sign-up sheet in the school office from 13th March. Kidnetic are booked. Parents can only stay if there is a concern over an allergy or special requirement. The need for public liability insurance was discussed – *Lindsay to check if this is provided via membership of Connect Scotland.*

Post meeting note – Wendy and Alison reviewed Connect, and agreed that our membership of Connect provides public liability insurance.

- m. Spring Fair – proposed date Saturday 25th April. It was noted this was at the start of Ramadan. *A separate meeting will be arranged to discuss the fayre.* It was agreed to do everything possible to avoid a

loss (that happened with the bags) again. Ideas are needed, such as business paying to have a stall (e.g. school hair bands), possibility of crafts made by children, classic cars etc. We need an aim in mind for the fundraising, and what specifically money will be spent on. *Mr McDonald will ask the pupil council to think about ideas to spend the money on.*

Post meeting note – it has been decided to postpone the Spring Fayre. At the next meeting it will be discussed what to fundraise for/spend the money on, and if we want a different activity for the Summer term.

- n. School Time capsule – A time capsule was buried by children from Mearns and Kirkhill primaries before building started. It could still be considered for the current Maidenhill children. Planting bulbs was proposed by a parent council member unable to attend the meeting.
- o. Ice on Maidenhill roads - The roads are not yet adopted by the council and therefore not gritted. It is currently the developer's responsibility. *Councillor Jim Swift agreed to raise with the roads/planning department. David to also follow up.*

Post meeting update from Councillor Swift - Roads have undertaken the gritting of the road up to the school, which is good news. If there are problems, then details / location / etc. should be provided to Councillor Swift to follow up with the roads department.

Post meeting note – Relevant updates discussed at the last meeting regarding funds/gifts, and an aim to work in environmentally friendly ways, have been added to the Proposed Constitution Document. A code of conduct and social medial policy have also been drafted by the office bearers. These need to be finalised and signed by parent council members.

Next meeting Tuesday 21st April, 6.30pm Maidenhill school boardroom.