



Maidenhill Primary School Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 16th November 2021 7.30pm

Present: Lindsay Brown (Chair), Alasdair McDonald (HT), Alison Shaw (DHT), Lesley Atkin (PT), Gordon Edge, Wendy Nixon, Susan Hamill, Sabrina Chalmers, Lee de Franca, Manpreet Virdee, Claire Lamont, Diane Rutherford, Jenny Boyd, Liz Maxwell, Amna Yousef, Priyanka Kumar, Gillian McNeil, Leigh O'Donnell, Yasmin Mirza, Zhada Robertson, Elnara Alderson

Apologies: Alison Langley, Lauren Kendrick, David Bickley, Saadia Sohail

1. Welcomes to all current and new members were given.
2. AGM minutes discussed and agreed.
3. Chairperson's report - available upon request from maidenhillparentcouncil@gmail.com

Lindsay once again thanked the parent council and the fundraising committee for all their hard work and support and commitment. She offered her support for the year ahead and will handover to the new chair.

4. Head Teacher's Report – available upon request.

Mr McDonald once again thanked Lindsay for all her hard work and wished her all the best. The school role is now 312 pupils, 140 girls and 172 boys. P3 and P6 are the busiest classes. There are 90 children enrolled for the nursery, however some of these children have not yet turned 3 and so have not actually started in the nursery yet.

5. Treasury report

No changes from the AGM.

6. Appointment of committee members and reps

Lindsay Brown with much sadness has stepped down from Chair due to change in personal circumstances. She has thanked the school for all their hard work and support. She will continue to offer her support to the parent council.

Chair: Lee de Franca put herself forward for the role of Chair. She is keen to help and support the school and is passionate about the role. Lee would focus on building a team who will work together. She was also nominated by Lindsay who offered her support and experience and would hand over to Lee in the coming weeks. Lindsay thanked Lee for her kindness and support and would be an honour and pleasure to handover her role to Lee.

Vice Chair: Wendy Nixon who will continue in her role.

Secretaries: Sabrina Chalmers also happy to continue in her role. She will be joined by Claire Lamont who has already played a role in preparing documents detailing existing parent council roles and how this can be shared with new families who join the school. She is also working on a document for joining the parent council and membership information. She will be a great asset to the team.

Treasurers: Both Susan Hamill and Leigh O'Donnell are happy to continue in their role and have done an amazing job behind the scenes.

Fundraising Coordinator: Jennifer Boyd who has played an active role in fundraising activities for the school to date.

Communication Coordinator: Diane Rutherford. Diane has also been an active member of the parent council and will be a great asset in this new role in helping facilitate better communication not only within the PC itself but with the larger parent body too.

Class Reps: It was decided that Office Bearers should not also be Class Reps. Therefore, Lee de Franca and Diane Rutherford stepped down from their Class Rep roles. Leigh O'Donnell also noted her interest in becoming a class rep, but as an Office Bearer isn't able to do this.

Class reps were confirmed as follows.

Nursery: Liz Maxwell

P1: David Bickley

P2: Liz Maxwell

P3: David Bickley and Lindsay Brown

P4: Manpreet Virdee

P5: Amna Yousef and Yasmin Mirza

P6: Zhada Robertson and Saadia Sohail

P7: Saadia Sohail

- Pitch update

Mr McDonald has been pleased to say that there has not been any further vandalism or incidents at the pitch. The playground is for the sole use of the school and is locked at all times. He believes the situation has improved and is pleased with this and the efforts of the community.

- Feedback from the nursery parents regarding communication

A number of parents have raised concerns with regards to nursery communication and wished to express this via the parent council. The concerns are surrounding the lack of communication to parents with regards to induction/ day to day activities and progress. The pick up and the drop off at the entrance has been felt as a barrier and to be inefficient.

There was also positive feedback which included Mr McDonald's bulletin on a Friday. Bereavement support given by the staff at the school was also highlighted as a positive experience by parents.

The impact of Covid has been felt by the community and online learning.

There has been a parent engagement questionnaire which was sent out by Miss Shaw. There were only - responses (out of roughly 90 parents).

Discussion was had around ways to make feedback more constructive and how we can support staff and children, and not just list complaints/concerns. Discussing parents, teachers and nursery staff on WhatsApp or social media is not acceptable and results in deformation of character. We should use the right channels to rectify situations before taking things further. Mr McDonald encouraged the parents to contact the school with their concerns either by email or telephone and welcomed any feedback in order to reflect and do things better. Mr McDonald also reiterated this by saying the PC members who are approached by parents in this regard should advise them to contact the school directly in the first instance.

There were discussions around Seesaw. Seesaw is a software application that "creates a powerful learning loop between students, teachers and families". It was recommended by many parents, in their feedback to Parent Council members. Miss Shaw advised however, that the guidance from East Renfrewshire at present is not to use this application as there have been concerns surrounding GDPR. Any schools that were already using Seesaw before this issue was raised are allowed to finish their contract with it, but schools that haven't previously used Seesaw are not allowed to begin using it at this time.

The feedback and suggestions will be communicated to the school in an email.

- **Charity status**

Advantages and disadvantages were discussed and will be further discussed with David Bickley. It was a general consensus that it may not be advantageous to apply for charity status.

- **Additional policies:**

The policies are still as draft on the school website and awaiting finalising.

- **Funding opportunities**

The Parent Council have organised a Ladies' night on the 26th November and this will be an opportunity to raise funds. Lee is working hard on Asda Green Token Giving and encouraging parents to vote.

Next meeting

A date for the next Parent Council meeting was not set. This will therefore be discussed and set in the coming weeks and notice will be given in due course.