

## **NETHERLEE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Netherlee Parent Council**

# Meeting -15 June 2022

Present	Kirsty Milton-Moir	KMN	Rory McCoy	RM
	Fiona Edward	FE	Harriet Boyle	НВ
NPS	Jennifer McCann	JM	Rebecca Brown	RB
NPS	Julie Roberts	JR	Emma Anson	EA
NPS	Lynn Sweeney	LS	Jane Thomson	JT
NPS	Yvonne Donaldson	YD	Katy McNair	KMN
	Martin Whitehead	MW	Michelle Borland	МВ
	Justin Haccius	JH	Gillian Gray	GG
	Tennant Stevenson	TS	Adam Capek	AC
	Mike Law	ML	Victoria Pearson	VP
PTA	Dorothy Buchanan	DB		

#### Welcome

AC opened the meeting and welcomed three observers (KMN,MB,GG) for the first time.

# **Apologies**

Cllr David MacDonald, Cllr Kate Campbell, Cllr Katie Pragnall, Richard Owen, Felicity Rose, Fiona MacMillan, Fizza Kaneez, Joanna Haw

#### Minutes of last meeting

Approval of meeting of proposed by AC and seconded by HB

### **Head Teacher's Report**

Sports week and 'walk in the park' coming up so parent volunteers needed.

JM - On new P1, NPS are planning an Open Evening on transition into primary and are planning a pitch party for the new P1's and will bring in those starting nursery also.

JR –Current P-2 & P-3 parents will be brought in next session to be given the necessary information. Some P7 will have an extended transition, with a Maths Fair and two full induction days at WWHS. There will be a show and a party for their graduation also.

P1 will be re-shuffled going in to P-2. This is mainly due to rules on class sizes (P1/P2 - 25, P3/P4 - 30, P5-P7 - 33). There will be 3 x P1 classes coming in as opposed to the usual 4. Staffing allocation is based on pupil numbers and can fluctuate year on year.

Oct/Nov – there will be Parent Evenings. There are differing views as to preference for in-person versus virtual, so proposing to have one day for each.

Following the website revamp, NPS needs help with the Parent Welcome Booklet and the Parent Handbook (Action: HB). The website is now much more parent friendly. Every school has a Quality Improvement Officer, NPS' is Rosamund Rodriguez. The old website will be removed at some point.

LS – NPS conducted a homework practice review. Results from that suggested that homework was valued but parents needed flexibility. Reading tasks should continue to be completed independently and quality feedback given to children. Family time activities very important for health and wellbeing, as well as online learning, on-line games etc.

JR explained the Learning Grid approach where children would be given activities to complete (eg a maths grid) over a set period. P1& P2 would be slightly more structured in regard to phonics. P3 – P7 would have a bigger grid with projects linked to teaching in class. All children will get a Home Learning Jotter and would receive feedback on their home learning on the last Friday of the month ('Feedback Friday!').

JT highlighted that it would be useful for parents to know where kids are on their Learning Journey.

JD explained that there was no legislation dictating homework, and there were lots of different approaches. Studies suggested there was limited impact of homework on education, and that prioritising mental health and wellbeing, and quality time between children and parents was more important. NPS would send home student jotters more frequently next session which would address JT's point.

East Ren Education Dept. conducted a survey on how much parents know what their children are doing in school. RB noted it was useful to get in the habit of home work. P6 & P7 may be needed to be more structured as going on to secondary.

DB said it would be useful to have an idea of how much time should be spent on homework, and also to clearly communicate the purpose of the work set. Also need to keep google classroom alive as a great digital tool.

#### **Quick updates on ongoing business**

<u>Road Safety</u> – ER Council have provided new "school" signs on approach to the school but have not implemented a 20mph limit despite Transport Scotland guidance recommending this around all

schools. ER Council are looking at speed limits on Clarkston Rd (B767) in general but feel PC have probably taken this as far as possible at the moment but should return to the issue regularly.

<u>Playing Field</u> - a number of potential issues including issues of drainage. Need to see what cheap options are available. Parks Dept are the relevant docking point for PC on the issue. PC will not progress this at the current time but will keep it on sub-agenda for routine discussion with the Community Council.

<u>After school clubs</u> - previously were in the line of football and cricket. ER Culture & Leisure – Sports for All activities. JD suggested we contact the Active Schools policy lead. Activities tend to take place in secondary schools more as there is a greater concentration of sporting qualifications.

<u>Netherlee PTA update</u> – PTA is fund raising for swimming lessons and sports house events, also gardening club. PTA has a chair and an interim secretary (for a couple of months). PTA needs a vice-chair and a vice –treasurer. Will be putting in a school uniform order shortly.

**RB** – raised the issue of safe biking from Muirend to WHS. There is a campaign under way to secure safe cycling. Only 0.3% of journeys to WHS are made by bicycle. Campaign is making contact with MSPs and local council and can be supported on Facebook: <u>Williamwood Cycle Lane Campaign</u>, and Twitter: @WilliamwoodCL. Netherlee PC declared its support for the campaign.

AGM: Thanks to the school for providing access for the AGM / PC meeting. Also particular thanks to the Comms team (Fiona, Jane) and to Victoria for all her work with ERC.

Plan for next year PC meetings was for a hybrid approach. Next PC meeting would be 31 August 2022, at 7pm.

Positions confirmed: Chair – Adam Capek

Vice-chair – Martin Whitehead Secretary – Justin Haccius