



NETHERLEE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Netherlee Parent Council

Meeting –15 February 2023

Present	Adam Capek	AC		Gillian Laird	GL
	Gillian Gray	GG		Katie Rocchiccioli	KR
	Gail Cameron	GCa		Yvonne Donaldson (HT)	YD
	Katy McNair	KM		Lynn Sweeney (DHT)	LS
	Oznur Eren	OE		Julie Roberts (DHT)	JR
	Graeme Smith	GS		Jane Thomson	JT
	Felicity Rose	FR		Laura McIver	LM
	Fiona Clark	FC		Brian Corbett	BC
	Emma Anson	EA		Phil Stirling	PS
	Grant Allan	GA		Michelle Borland	MB
	David Tomb	DT		Joanne Smith	JS

Welcome

AC opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, including members of the student parliament and some of their parents who were in attendance.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted from: Fiona MacMillan, Joanna Haw, Justin Haccius

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were approved by JT.

3. Election of New Members

AC noted that the Council is always open for new members.

4. Pupil Parliament Presentation

- Committees: YD introduced the Pupil Parliament, which is a place for pupils to have their say. Committees include Citizenship, Safety, Eco and Wellbeing. Pupils from each of the committees gave a presentation on the work that they cover. YD commented that the Safety committee is for P4-7 year groups as there are only 3 p1-3 classes and it was felt the safety theme is more appropriate for older children.
- Awards: The committees have been gathering evidence for school application to awards. YD explained that the school wishes to be re-accredited in a number of awards that have not been assessed for a number of years due to COVID precautions. These awards are: Gold in the Rights Respecting Schools Award (Citizenship committee), Green Eco Flag (Eco committee), Digital Wellbeing Award (Wellbeing Committee). Leaders meet every Wednesday and go around the classes in the school collecting evidence.
- Questions: MB asked how the committees rotate. YD explained that committees change each term.
- Parental assistance: AC asked if the pupils would come back and update the PTC in the future, and if there is anything the PTC and parents can do to help. YD noted that the Wellbeing Committee is looking to recognise sports achievements across the school and nursery. The committee would also welcome inspirational speeches, recordings, photographs or visits from athletes in our community. The Wellbeing committee would benefit from any suggestions of websites/activities that can help with online or road safety. The Citizenship committee would like to make links with charities and foodbanks – if any parents have contacts please email these in. The Eco Committee would like to make links with organisations like Scottish Power, or the RSPB. YD noted that word of mouth among parents has contributed success with the school's recent birthday celebrations, so sharing this information about the committees could be equally beneficial.

5. Headteacher Report

- Pupil groups: YD noted that if the PTC would like to hear from other pupil groups, this would be possible. All of the P7 pupils (122) are involved in leadership opportunities and work on these on Wednesday afternoons.
- School improvement plan: this is available on the school website and YD is happy to provide more information about any aspect of the plan.
- New gym hall floor: YD informed that East Renfrewshire Council is going to fund new flooring for the gym hall. This is coming from additional funding, and not from the school budget. It will take around 1 week to complete and during that time, the school may need to have a restricted lunch menu.
- Outdoor play area: YD explained that the PTA has been working with LS to design a multicourt painted outdoor play area for the school. This will contain a mini tennis/badminton court and an outdoor fitness trail. It will have a 5-year guarantee and will be funded by PTA.
- Staff In-service day: JR gave an update on the staff In-service day held on Friday 10 February. There was an update on moderation – checking on every level that the skill and outcomes for teaching are consistent for age groups across the authority. To do this, staff worked in trios across the whole authority. It was very useful to come together after a period of restrictions due to COVID.

- Everyone Matters: LS provided an update about the Everyone Matters Group, which has a parent group from school and nursery, a pupil group from P5-7 and a teacher group. They work to develop equality and diversity throughout the school. One way in which this is happening is by gathering evidence towards achieving a Gold Family Focus Award. The accreditation meeting is on **19th May 2023**. LS would encourage parents to attend and noted that there will be a parent questionnaire circulated which requires an 80% return rate in order for the school to receive accreditation. This is very high and must be achieved in a timeframe of only 2 weeks. The PTC discussed ways to achieve this rate and agreed that members will fill in the questionnaire and encourage other parents to do so by disseminating a reminder through the parent whatsapp groups. LS noted that including information about this in the Friday Bundle with a link to the questionnaire would help to raise awareness among parents. The school will also be launching a school charter formulated by parents and pupils that will be on display. FR asked if the school committees exist to gain accreditations, or do the accreditations come alongside larger work that the committees are doing to achieve equality etc? YD responded that the accreditations are a way of acknowledging the work that is going on and help to inspire action.
- Promoting and nurturing early communication and language in nursery: this is being achieved through keeping clutter at a minimum, creating a nursery environment that mimics the home environment and visiting other nurseries to see their spaces. In addition, work is being done to make the resources and environment of the nursery gender neutral, as this promotes gender equality through play.
- Digital and Writing Development Groups: JR explained that as the digital landscape moves very quickly, the Digital Development Group is always working to remain up to date. One example is in the area of coding. By using expertise among the children themselves, the school has achieved useful peer-to-peer learning and this has enabled the promotion of leadership qualities among the children. In the area of writing, policy has been changing, so the Writing Development Group has been looking at assessment to make sure that children are meeting benchmarks.
- Dance and drama: There is a desire to bring this into more prominence in the curriculum. This can explicitly teach skills such as confidence, public speaking and presentation. A number of staff are trained dancers and the school would like to look into how they can be utilised in this area.
- Travel plan: YD noted that the school travel plan is back on the agenda for the school improvement plan. P7 has been trialling Active Travel Trackers to record how they travel to school each day. The school wishes to encourage walking and cycling to school and will use Walk to School Week in Term 4 to promote this.
- School Handbook update: The school version is complete. The parent version is still to receive input.
- Budget cuts: AC noted that a combined letter was sent to East Renfrewshire Council from all the PTCs concerning budget cuts. A reply was received to acknowledge receipt of the letter, but no promises were made concerning the likelihood/impact of cuts. MB thanked AC for collating the PTCs comments for this letter.
- Road Safety: AC noted that Giffnock Primary school has had protected time outside of their campus when no traffic is allowed extended. This may be a positive sign for future movement on road safety on Clarkston Road.

Questions

- Phone use: JR explained that phones are not allowed to be used by children on school campus. If children use these when they shouldn't in school, the phone is confiscated. Parents are asked to collect the phone. Children can of course bring a phone if they choose

however this should be switched off on arrival at the playground and kept in schoolbags until home time. There is no requirement for pupils to have phones as the school provide laptops/chromebooks/ipads.

- Travel plan: FR asked if data from the Active Travel Trackers could be used to explore if there are clusters of families traveling by car from particular areas in order to encourage lift sharing. YD did not yet know if this would be possible.
- Pollution: FR asked if there would be a way to reduce pollution caused by cars sitting in the car park adjacent to the school with their engines running during drop off and pick up times. GG explained that at a school where she has worked, groups of children in high visibility vests go into the car park to request drivers turn off engines and this has been very effective. YD noted that this is not possible as the car park is not school property. KR suggested making a video featuring the children asking parents not to sit with engines idling and this could be distributed using the parental Whatsapp groups, and/or shared on the school Twitter account. This could be organised using the safety and eco committees on pupil parliament. AC offered to write to the campus officer to mention this issue.
- School trips: JT asked whether school trips are once again running. YD explained that all years will experience a school trip by the end of Term 4. The cost of transport has become extremely high and the school is having to subsidise this.
- Bikeability and swimming: FR asked if these are now on. YD noted that bikeability is now on, but swimming is not.

6. AOB

- School photography
FR noted that the cost of school photos could be prohibitive for some members of the community. Could there be a low cost small version of the class photo? LS responded that the school has made investigations into a number of photography companies in order to ensure that the price offered is competitive. The digital only option could be a cheaper alternative. FR asked if there is a way for children to opt out of having their photo taken. YD responded that if parents email in advance to convey this wish, this can be allowed. FR asked if the 90th birthday photo is going to be made available. YD responded that the school is looking into options to offer this as a gift to all pupils.

ADDITIONAL POINTS TO NOTE:

- **Next PC meeting has been moved from Thursday 20th April to Wednesday 19 April in person.**