



Netherlee Primary School and Nursery Parent Council

MINUTES of Meeting on Wednesday 31 January 2024, 7pm at Netherlee Primary School Hub

Attendees

Parent Councillors: Harriet Boyle (HB) [chairing]; Gillian Gray (GG); Emma Anson (EA); Victoria Pearson (VP) [minute taking]; Rory McCoy (RMC)

PTA: unable to attend

Parent Forum: Drew Moffat, Annilah Moghul, Catriona Milosevic, Anne Steven, Graham Steven, Jennifer Baird

School Staff: Julie Roberts (JR)[Depute Head]; Jennifer McCann (JMC) [Acting Principal Teacher]; Stuart Bryce (SB) [Principal Teacher] (for items 1-3)

ERC Councillors: not present

Apologies

Parent Councillors: Michelle Borland (MB), Mike Law (ML), Adam Capek (AC), Felicity Rose (FR), PTA representatives

1. Welcome and Introductions

HB welcoming everyone to the meeting and introducing PC office bearers. HB noting that Yvonne Donaldson (Headteacher) and Lynn Sweeney (Depute Head) are both unwell and therefore unable to attend – wishing them well. Julie Roberts (Depute Head) will be covering for YD this evening.

2. Feedback and closure of actions from previous meetings

The minutes of the last parent council meeting on 22 November 2023 (taken by Adam Capek) have already been proposed by MB via email. RMC seconding these. Minutes accordingly approved.

3. SNIP Priority – Digital Wellbeing

HB explaining that we have been looking at different aspects of the School and Nursery Improvement Plan (SNIP). At the last meeting we visited “the Lighthouse”. This time we are looking at Digital Wellbeing and SB, ICT coordinator (and principal teacher), accompanied by 2 pupils (from the school’s group of pupil digital leaders, referred to as the “tech team”), are here to tell us about their work on this.

SB noting that Mr Aitken also works with the “tech team”.

SB setting the relevant question – why is digital wellbeing a priority? SB explaining that our children are (unavoidably) living in a digital world. Ofcom produce an annual report. SB displaying slides showing some key statistics eg 97% of children have access to the internet at home. SB noting that

there are many positives but also some risks, so it is vital that we educate children about living in a digital world.

SB shared information on age ratings of certain apps and parental concerns (eg fake profiles, cyber bullying etc). There are 3 components in the revised planning framework: digital literacy, computing science, cyber resilience and online safety. Safer Internet Day is approaching on Tues 6 February 2024.

SB introducing two p7 pupil leaders from the tech team, who then present to the parent council, explaining that they had put themselves forward for this role. So far they have been working on coding applications; they put out a survey to teachers on where the tech team could help and they have been teaching younger pupils (P1-3) about how to stay safe online. They are aware that there can be some dangers eg sometimes young people can be easily influenced. They advise other pupils that they should always ask a trusted adult before downloading anything, be aware that you can turn off a device if something is upsetting and be aware of being able to block and report. Pupils then reading aloud: "Safer Internet" poem.

SB continuing that there will be career long professional learning (CLPL) for staff. They will be bringing in guest speakers for assemblies. For example, the campus police officer will be coming to speak to P6 and P7. Jonathan Hull (principal teacher who works across different ER schools) will be coming to speak to P4 and P5.

SB advising that the school are planning to introduce a page on the school website with information for parents. National Online Safety produce a lot of guidance.

SB noted that the school are getting questions from parents regarding use of personal devices. Asking children not to use phones within school, largely because this presents equity issues if some children have these and some do not. Aware this may be different in high school. GG noting the issues that can arise with phones with video recording functions – staff and other children potentially being recorded without their consent.

The school are working towards the Digital Wellbeing Award for Cyber Resilience and Digital Safety.

On Tuesday 6 February 2024, the school will be hosting a workshop on keeping children safe online, delivered by NSPCC. Information has been sent out with the school's Friday newsletter and parents are welcome to book a place via the link provided. There will also be a NSPCC webinar "Online Gaming and Keeping Safe" on Wednesday 7 February 2024.

HB asking about school position regarding smartwatches. SB responding that they would expect pupils to disable certain functions (eg calls, video recording) while in school. Can still be used as a watch for simply telling the time within school and other functions switched on again after school. This can however sometimes cause difficulties where the child doesn't know how to switch functions on and off.

4. Head Teacher Report

Staffing

JR noting that JMC will be leaving after 2 years with us and Angela Kerr (who had gone to Cartmill Family Centre to fulfil an acting post) will be returning. They will be sad to lose JMC but happy to be getting Angela back. JMC will return to her previous position at Kirkhill Primary.

Thanks being expressed to JMC on behalf of the parent body for all her contributions to the school and nursery within the past couple of years. JMC in turn thanking the school community for the welcome she received here and she will miss NPSNC.

East Renfrewshire Council Collaborative Improvement Visit on Literacy

The school were involved in a recent ERC review relating to literacy. Staff presented to the reviewers and they spoke to some children. This was a positive experience. There is no written report but there will be feedback for the whole authority and Mrs Donaldson will report any highlights when available.

HB querying whether schools are selected randomly for this? JR responding yes – the last time NPS were selected to participate was a few years back relating to health and wellbeing.

HB asking how the children that the reviewers speak to are selected. JR explaining that there were focus groups covering all year groups (P1-4 and P5 to 7). They select children mainly on the basis of who teachers think will be happy to chat to the reviewers and share information.

Improvements to School Environment – the “Cage”

The school are hoping to improve the area of the playground (at one of the entrance/exits to the school and where some equipment is stored) known as the “cage”. They are looking for ideas from parents about how this area could be improved. They may also be seeking volunteers to help with the work at a later stage. HB suggesting that it would be good to put out a photo to parents so that they are clear on the area being referred to.

5. Traffic and parking update

HB introducing the history of the parent council’s concerns about the busy road (Clarkston Road) and dangerous parking/driving in the vicinity of the school. EA providing information obtained from a local councillor that roads in the area have been surveyed by ERC and they will be putting out a consultation. Agreed that the PC should feed into this process.

The work that is currently being undertaken on Clarkston Road close to the entrance to Linn Park involves dropping the kerb and widening the island in the road.

EA noting that the PC had previously shared contact details for ERC parking wardens so that people know how to report dangerously parked vehicles. Disappointingly, when EA has contacted the email address for the wardens there has been no reply. We should however continue to report so there is a paper trail of the extent of the problem. GG noting that she has seen wardens out in the vicinity which is positive and some tickets have been issued. Regarding the apparently abandoned car currently parked outside Catch, EA understands that this is expected to be removed within the next few days on the instructions of DVLA.

VP noting that she has heard that the numbers of road crossing patrollers at East Renfrewshire schools are to be cut but does not have details of whether this will affect our school. Parents agreeing on the vital role that our patrollers play in our children’s safety and our serious concerns if these were to be withdrawn, even if other improvements were made to the structure of surrounding roads. Agreed that the PC should make contact with ERC in respect of our concerns and try to get further information.

6. PTA Update

PTA unfortunately unable to attend and update will be provided at the next meeting.

7. PC and PTA recruitment

Following resignations from PC members Fiona McMillan and Martin Whitehead (who are thanked for their contributions to the PC), we have 10 members and are more than that number of places available. RMC has kindly taken on the role that Fiona fulfilled in the PC newsletter.

HB noting that we previously distributed leaflets to engage interest among the parent forum. EA recalls that there was a leaflet explaining the difference between the PC and PTA. VP recalls previously distributing an invitation to a specific meeting. We don’t seem to have a more generic leaflet made up at present but agreed that this would be useful to distribute to parents at school events.

8. Pitch maintenance – PC support

HB noting that the ERC pitches beside the school (and used by the school in the better weather) are in poor condition and the school does not know when maintenance is planned, which can inhibit their use of this facility. Members and staff noting that there is a big hole in the grass pitch that has been

there for some time and is becoming larger. Agreed that the PC will email the relevant department of ERC seeking information about their intentions regarding maintenance of the pitch.

9. Participatory budget update

JMC (participatory budgeting lead) showing video made by pupils of the participatory budgeting Young Leaders of Learning group that had been shown to all classes to explain participatory budgeting.

JMC explaining that she had met with other PB leads within ERC establishments and they had agreed on the theme of a community project. £1000 was available.

A survey was put out to parents/carers and teachers to assess the most popular of 4 suggested ideas for the funds. There was a good level of engagement and the most popular response was equipment/resources to develop some areas within our existing grounds/playgrounds. The children have chosen some resources and equipment and funds already received. £500 will be allocated to the school and £500 to nursery.

JMC noting that Miss Campbell will be taking on responsibility for Participatory Budgeting when JMC leaves.

10. P7 transition (outwith WWHS)

HB noting that she is aware that some high school placing requests are being made outwith the cluster and wondering what happens with the transition process in respect of pupils moving to schools other than Williamwood. JR explaining that this does not cause any issue: the relevant high schools will make contact with NPS to explain their transition and NPS will liaise with relevant parents/carers.

11. School Assessment – information

JR noting that that she will not say too much on this in the absence of Leadership Team colleagues who were going to cover this tonight (at the PC's request). Children are continually assessed on a daily basis. There is also Standardised Testing (ERC) and National Standardised Testing.

12. Any other Business (AOB)

None

13. Close

HB thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(Next meeting planned for **7pm Wed 17 April 2024** in School Hub)

ACTION POINTS

Action	Assignee	Notes
Send approved minutes and updated member list to school	VP	
Newsletter	RMC	
Email ERC re crossing patrollers	VP	
Email ERC re pitch maintenance	HB/VP	
Leaflets	Office bearers	