



Netherlee Primary School and Nursery Parent Council

MINUTES of Meeting on Wednesday 17 April 2024, 7pm at Netherlee Primary School Hub

Attendees

Parent Councillors: Harriet Boyle (HB) [chairing], Gillian Gray (GG), Victoria Pearson (VP), Michelle Borland [minute taking], Felicity Rose (FR), Mike Law (ML)

PTA: Handri Cronje (HC), Helen Cross (HCr)

Parent Forum: Jill Hunter, Conor McCarthy, Emily Fetton, Fiona Edward, Kirsty Milton-Moir, Jen Baird

School Staff: Yvonne Donaldson (YD) [Headteacher], Julie Roberts (JR) [Depute Head], Kelly Linn (KL), Angela Kerr (AK), Lynn Sweeney (LS) [Depute Head], Joanne Mann (JM), Jilly Ford (JF)

Apologies

Parent Councillors: Emma Anson, Rory McCoy, Adam Capek

East Renfrewshire Council: Councillor Katie Pragnell

1. Welcome and minutes from previous meeting

HB welcomed everyone to the meeting. HB proposed the minutes of the last meeting on 31 January 2024 and GG seconded these.

2. Head teacher update

YD invited members of the school staff team to provide updates on various initiatives happening across the school and nursery:

- AK updated on the participatory budgeting project. P7 Young Leaders of Learning (YLLs) coordinated the project, ensuring a wide range of voices were heard, including those of parents and pupils. The YLLs consulted on priorities for allocating £1000 from the school and nursery fund (£500 each for the school and nursery), supported decision-making and communicated the outcome to fellow pupils and other local primary schools. Pupils provided positive feedback on their involvement with the project. The school and nursery will use the funding to purchase outdoor learning resources to enhance the playground and outdoor spaces. The project has been enhanced by additional funds from the school budget including new fencing and storage.
- LS updated on an upcoming fundraiser to enhance the school fund. This will involve a sponsored house challenge with themes around physical activity and changing your appearance. The school is welcoming donations.

- JF updated on work underway to upgrade the cage area. This will involve a school competition to design a mural for the cage around the theme 'our diverse community'. The school is receiving support from a local parent who is a graphic designer. The parent will help select winners and draw the mural. The school will be looking for donations of paint and other supplies to support the project.
- JR explained the cluster ASN conference that will take place at Carolside Primary on 7 May. NPS teachers will participate in workshops and discussion groups to learn more about supporting pupils with diverse needs such as dyslexia, autism, ADHD, and pupils who need support with bereavement or managing their emotions.
- LS and KL shared information about the term four curriculum focus on Developing the Young Workforce (DYW). This will develop employability skills and raise awareness about the transition into high school and the wider world of work. The school is inviting local businesses and parents into the school to help teach children practical skills and engaging in expeditionary learning to explore big questions like "What will our world look like in future?" This will involve a mix of teacher and child-led learning and is designed to remove barriers and motivate children to share their ideas. There will be in school sharing at the end of the session.
- KL updated on the school's progress following reaccreditation for the **sportscotland** Gold School Sport Award, which recognised the wide range of opportunities in place for children to participate in extracurricular sport. There has been a focus on giving opportunities to children who don't have access to clubs outside of school. Between May 2023 and April 2024 there have been 37 free sporting clubs available, about 12 per term. Williamwood HS's PE department is offering free clubs and P7 sports leaders are running clubs for P1s and P2s. In response to parental feedback on recognising pupil sporting achievements, the school has been celebrating pupil achievements, representing NPS in a wide range of sports and activities including netball, dance, cross country, basketball, badminton, skiing and swimming.
- JM updated on the P7 debating club, which recently participated in the Lord Provost school debate. They debated against another local school with pupils from both schools participating on Zoom to contribute questions. YD noted that debating is an important aspect of the talking and listening outcomes within the Curriculum for Excellence. Parents at the meeting noted interest in seeing this extended more widely in classes and between classes.

3. SNIP update - Developing the learning and teaching of reading

HB explained that the final aspect of the School and Nursery Improvement Plan (SNIP) the parent council wanted to explore during this school year was developing the learning and teaching of reading.

JM provided an update on this area, explaining that the school have been using attainment data to design the programme. Highlights include:

- **Career long professional learning** - School teachers have received additional training and are passing this on to fellow teachers and wider school staff. This is focused on developing reading strategies, up-skilling staff on the methodology of teaching reading and setting up targeted programmes for children who need an extra boost.
- **School library** - Developing the school library has been a key success of this SNIP activity, aiming to boost enthusiasm for books and reading for pleasure. Pop up libraries

have encouraged parental engagement. P7 librarians have had a leadership role in developing the library

- **Refreshing resources** - There has also been investment in class novels and texts to ensure they are diverse, modern, motivating and engaging.

Parents queried how the school was engaging with parents as part of the programme and YD explained that there had been chatter cafes with a reading focus, parents have been invited to visit the school library and the P1 teachers have delivered presentations on how they teach reading to support home learning.

4. East Renfrewshire Council parent council chairs meeting

HB updated on the February meeting of the parent council chairs, noting it was poorly attended. The Council is planning to move back to a blended model to encourage more attendance with a mix of online and in person meetings. Highlights from the meeting included:

- A display of STEM resources, which parents were encouraged to engage with. HB noted that many of the resources are already in place in NPSN.
- Discussion about mental health resources to support transitions at all stages. Chairs had the opportunity to visit stalls and ask questions.
- The council noted its plans to undertake a parental engagement census towards the end of the year to determine how best to address low parental engagement across all schools.

5. East Renfrewshire Council policy on composite classes and mixing classes

HB updated that East Renfrewshire Council have published a new policy on class organisation, which sets out guidance for composite classes and mixing classes. This was in response to parental concern about class sizes and short notice changes to class composition. Parent council chairs felt the communication timelines in the policy were too late. The Director of Education recognised parental concern but defended timelines due to uncertainty about school rolls and the connection between this and school budgets.

MB raised a question on behalf of a parent regarding the school's policy on mixing classes up each year, noting that the parent felt this could help deal with some challenges with friendship groups and support pupils with their transition to high school.

YD recognised the pros and cons of mixing classes and keeping them the same and noted that most schools that don't have composite classes routinely keep classes the same each year. YD noted that while the school roll is declining, there is no need to introduce composite classes next year at NPS. The school will maintain its approach of keeping classes the same each year where possible, while ensuring there is plenty of opportunity for shared learning experiences across stages to develop relationships and support the transition to high school.

6. East Renfrewshire Council Active Corridor and road safety

VP noted that at the previous meeting it was suggested that the parent council could feed into the Active Corridor consultation. However this opened and closed in between meetings so this did not happen. The council is developing a concept design in late spring / early summer and will seek feedback at that stage so there will be another opportunity to influence this.

EF noted she had raised the potential of a 20 mile an hour zone on Clarkston Road at a local community consultation and feedback from local councillors was unsatisfactory.

Action - PC members agreed to send an email to ERC about considering a 20 mile per hour zone around school as part of active corridor.

VP updated on the response the parent council received from ERC to its enquiry about the school crossing patrol service. The council noted that the crossing patrol service is not statutory and that it has reviewed 38 sites across the council area. It set out its plans to replace the crossing patroller at Linn Park Avenue with a zebra crossing while the crossing patroller on Clarkston Road will remain.

Action - PC members agreed to write back to the council noting its concerns about the impact this will have on road safety and to encourage any parents concerned to do the same.

7. Instrumental music lessons

MB raised concerns about the accessibility and transparency around instrumental music lessons inside and outside of school. There is currently a lack of clarity around why some children are being offered lessons during curriculum time while others are offered lessons on a Saturday at Williamwood. The pathway of access to lessons as children move through the school is also unclear.

YD confirmed that the school has no involvement in the instrumental music pathway and that this is managed by ERC.

Action - PC members agreed to approach the council to find out more information about the service.

8. PTA update

HC updated that the PTA is busy planning for its Spring/Summer period and have lots of opportunities for parents to get involved. The Summer Fayre is on 15 June 2024 and there will also be P1 welcome events and picnics and school sports week throughout June.

HC noted there is currently £1160 in the bank account and £600 of this is ring fenced for the project to improve the school gardens. A further £490 is being used as a deposit for inflatables for the Summer Fayre. The PTA has contributed over £400 towards the P7 end of term celebrations and are also aiming to have another colour run at the end of the year.

There are two uniform sales planned, one before the summer break and one during summer before the new term starts in August.

10. Any other Business (AOB)

None

11. Close

HB thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

The next meeting is **7pm Wed 5 June 2024** in the School Hub. This is also the AGM.

ACTION POINTS

Meeting date	Action	Assignee	Notes
31.01.2024	Send approved minutes and updated member list to school	VP	Completed
31.01.2024	Newsletter	RMC	Completed
31.01.2024	Email ERC re crossing patrollers	VP	Completed
31.01.2024	Email ERC re pitch maintenance	HB/VP	??
31.01.2024	Leaflets	Office bearers	??
17.04.2024	Email ERC re crossing patrollers	VP	
17.04.2024	Email ERC re 20 mile and hour zone and active corridor	TBC	
17.04.2024	Email ERC about instrumental music service	MB	
17.04.2024	Develop newsletter and communicate in Friday bundle	MB/RMC	Completed