



## **Netherlee Primary School and Nursery Parent Council**

### **MINUTES of Meeting on Wednesday 20 November 2024, 7pm at Netherlee Primary School Hub**

#### **Attendees**

*Parent Councillors:* Harriet Boyle (HB) [chairing], Gillian Gray (GG), Victoria Pearson (VP) [minute taking], Michelle Borland (MB),

*PTA:* Handri Cronjé (HC), Michelle Jaffrey (MJ)

*Parent Forum:* N/A

*School Staff:* Yvonne Donaldson (YD) [Headteacher], Julie Roberts (JR) [Depute Head], Lynn Sweeney (LS) [Depute Head], Taylor Elliott [Acting Principal Teacher], Kirsty Goodwin [Teacher]

#### **Apologies**

*Parent Councillors:* Rory McCoy (RM), Fiona Edward (FE)

#### **1. Welcome and noting of apologies**

HB welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced co-chairs and secretary. Apologies were noted from members unable to attend (as stated above).

Minutes of the previous meeting (September 2024) had been circulated to all members and were approved outside the meeting by HB and GG, subject to correction of a small typo in HB's initials.

#### **2. Constitution Update**

HB proposed that the PTA become a subgroup of the Parent Council. Parent Council members and PTA members present were in agreement with this.

HB noted that she has already prepared a draft of the constitutional amendments, which was shared with VP who has raised some queries, so HB is running it by Connect (the member organisation for parent groups) and will progress accordingly.

### **3. PC Chairs Meeting**

HB had attended a hybrid meeting of East Renfrewshire parent council chairs on behalf of Netherlee Parent Council. There were UNCRC Youth Rights representatives present. They are doing a roadshow of secondary schools and also looking for primary school representatives. The young people will look into putting together a video that can be shared to promote this.

A presentation had been shared by the Education Department outlining the improvement plan 2025-2028 and key areas for improvement in the next 3 years. Group activities were conducted at the meeting to collect highlights, challenges and new ideas.

Attendance rates had been discussed, noting that these are still lower than pre-COVID. It was acknowledged that COVID and strikes have had an impact on pupil attendance.

YD noted that attendance at Netherlee P/S is very high – around 96% - which is back to the pre-COVID rate. Attendance is only an issue in a very small number of individual cases. The school are however keeping an eye on some of the absences. YD noted that it can be disruptive if children are leaving for different reasons throughout the day e.g. to go on a trip, so this is strongly discouraged. However, there are of course sometimes situations when leaving/arriving midway through a session is unavoidable e.g. medical appointments.

### **4. Equalities Meeting**

VP had attended the Equalities meeting on behalf of Netherlee Parent Council. Participants had received a presentation about “Equally Safe”, Scotland’s Strategy for Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls. It was explained how violence against women and girls stems from deep rooted inequality. This is being tackled in various actions across East Renfrewshire Council. Gender equality is promoted through the whole school curriculum ensuring gender equal play, tackling gender stereotypes, promoting equality through policies and equipping children to understand and discuss inequality.

YD noted that the children in Netherlee are very vocal on these kinds of issues. TE shared about some of the gender issues she had worked on with children as regards occupations and stereotypes.

VP shared that an increase in misogynistic views had been mentioned as a concern, as highlighted by the Behaviour in Scottish Schools report (November 2023).

The “Equally Safe at School” programme had been explained, although this is relevant to high school level rather than primary and covers things like sexual violence prevention workshops and peer education model, encouraging young people to challenge inappropriate behaviour.

### **5. PTA**

MJ and HC reported positively on the activities of the PTA, reporting a healthy balance on the account. A summary of the financial position was given by MJ. A copy of the PTA’s financial report is available upon request to [netherleepta@gmail.com](mailto:netherleepta@gmail.com)

The recent discos were a big success. MJ noted that around £2000 had been made on the discos and around £500 from uniform sales. Donations were kindly received from some local businesses for the discos.

A good number of volunteers came forward for the discos, many of whom are willing to be involved in future PTA events.

The next event will be a family quiz night, planned for February 2025.

The PTA and school leadership team will discuss where expenditure is needed. MB suggested that it would be nice to get the children and parent forum involved in decision-making on expenditure if possible. YD explained how the school involves children a great deal in purchasing matters e.g. their recent request for more playground toys to play with at intervals which is now being actioned by Miss Elliott and the P7 Young Leaders of Learning Group.

## **6. Keeping the Promise Award**

JR explained that an award has been created for "Keeping the Promise" which relates to Scotland's promise to care experienced children. This was professional learning for all staff within the school and has just been completed. There was discussion of awareness and sensitivities around language and terminology.

Linked to this theme, the school had planned to discuss how it support pupils more generally and to gain some parent feedback but there was insufficient time remaining, so this was postponed to the next meeting.

## **7. The "Cage" Design Update**

JR updated that selection of design entries is underway to revamp the area known as the "cage" – they might try to get people from the community involved in choosing designs (by the children). Mrs Aitkenson will do the painting but parent volunteers will also be needed.

## **8.Close**

HB thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

The next meeting will be at **7pm on Wednesday 22 January 2025** in the School Hub.

## **ACTION POINTS**

Meeting date	Action	Assignee	Notes
20.11.24	Draft minutes of this meeting and share minutes of last meeting with school	VP	
20.11.24	Newsletter	MB&RM	
04.09.24	Enlist further volunteers and advise ERC names for recruitment training	VP	Completed
04.09.24	Email approved minutes to school & any updates for website	VP	Completed
04.09.24	Newsletter	MB&RM	Completed
04.09.24	Draft & circulate minutes of present meeting & seek parent suggestions for future agenda	VP	Completed
<b>04.09.24</b>	<b>Changes to structure of PC and PTA</b>	<b>HB</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>

05.06.24	Approved minutes of last meeting to be sent to school with updated member list	VP	Completed
05.06.24	Newsletter	MB&RMC	Completed
05.06.24	Renew Connect membership and send confirmation to school	VP&PTA	Completed
<b>05.06.24</b>	<b>Update constitution to include comms roles</b>		Ongoing
<b>05.06.24</b>	<b>Review further info about crossing patrollers and progress</b>	<b>VP&amp;CMC</b>	Ongoing
<b>05.06.24</b>	<b>Review Clarkston-Muirend Active Corridor plans and comment if/as appropriate</b>	<b>VP&amp;CMC</b>	Awaited
<b>31.01.2024</b>	<b>Email ERC re pitch maintenance</b>	<b>HB/VP</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>
<b>31.01.2024</b>	<b>Leaflets</b>	<b>Office bearers</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>
<b>17.04.2024</b>	<b>Email ERC about instrumental music service</b>	<b>MB</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>