

NETHERLEE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY CLASS PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

22/01/2025

MINUTES

Present:

Victoria Pearson (p3,p6); Kirsty Milton-Moir (p6); Fiona Edward (Nursery, p3, p6); Trisha Hamilton (p5); Kelly Linn (PT); Joanne Mann (Class Teacher); Lynn Sweeney (DHT); Helen Cross (p5, p4, p1); Emily Fetton (p2, p4); Adam Capek (p6, minutes); Julie Roberts (DHT); Harriet Boyle (p6, Chair); Mike Law (p2, p4); Yvonne Donaldson (HT); Fiona Clark (p7); Handri Cronje (p7, p3); Deirdre Ramanyam (p1, p5, p7); Conor McCarthy (p2)

- 1) **Minutes of previous meeting agreed.** Gillian Gray (proposed via email) / HB (seconded)
- 2) **ERC Recruitment training update.** 3 people attended from Netherlee PC. Clarification of the recruitment process. Role of the parent council in the recruitment panel and how they might propose questions to prospective candidates. There was also an exercise on unconscious bias and processes to overcome that within the recruitment process. There is an ERC plan to review their training and recruitment process. Emergency training would be put on in the event there was an unexpected recruitment issue and not enough current PC members who were already trained. Gillian Gray / HB / ML are our trained members.
- 3) **AOB – parent has approached the PC regarding the use of X (twitter).** This will be discussed in the headteacher report by YD.
- 4) **AOB – new crossing at the top of Linn Park Avenue.** There is a lot of concern but no word back from ERC. There seems to be significant disparity between the ERC figures on the number of children crossing at any time and what parents believe to be the true number.
- 5) Discussion that we **should continue to invite ERC local councillors to our PC meetings** but their attendance has been inconsistent recently.
- 6) **PTA Update (HC)** – no major activity since before Christmas. £677 raised from Cauliflower cards. Ongoing uniform sale closing today.

£7189 in bank currently with ~£6800 currently available. (~£300 already accounted for with garden.)

DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF PTA ACCOUNTS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST TO PARENT COUNCIL.

Some other money is currently ring-fenced for Diversity, playground markings, p7 and “fun day”. PTA liaising with Mr Bryce, Mrs Linn, Mrs Toman and Miss Elliott about some of these events.

Plan for Family Quiz night possibly in late February and other plans for later in the year will be finalised depending on personnel available. A summer fayre is a possibility but will be dependent on resources.

No other major events currently foreseen.

7) **Headteacher report (YD)**

- a. **Social Media.** Lots of political feeling around the use of X (twitter). ERC currently looking into this and whether use should continue. Request from ERC that schools don't take individual stance on this but go with full council guidance that will come out fairly soon. Use of X has currently dipped by the school intentionally and likely to be more whole school posts rather than individual classes for now. There have been a few parents who have removed permissions for their child to be on X. There is a difficulty that if the school takes a solo stance on this it may be seen to be making a political stance which is unintended. One current bit of advice by ERC is to turn off ability to comment on posts – so currently Netherlee account will be for viewing only but not commenting.

ERC education department are looking at other possible softwares / apps that may be able to replace this.

YD stresses that all parents can contact the school at any time to remove permissions for their individual child which will be acted on immediately.

b) **Trim Trail.** In the playground. Currently children are not able to use this as needs repairs and this is extremely costly. The problem is the flooring around the trail rather than the trail itself. Current quote to repair the flooring alone is ~£9000 (or ~£5500 to do a smaller but sufficient area since the safety flooring for the trail doesn't need to be so large - it was this size for historical reasons). It may not need safety flooring at all as it is below the necessary height but only by 1.5cm. Even removing the safety flooring also has a cost attached for playground repairs following that.

Winter Fayre was a very successful fundraiser but this money would be largely wiped out by replacing the safety flooring around the trim trail were that to be done.

There is no leeway to go for lower quotes in this as the school's hands are tied into using registered ERC contractors due to safety impact here.

PC had a discussion about different options available here. It is hard to strike a balance and the school will make a decision on this based both on safety and practicality.

If the school currently pays for this then it will likely have to come out of the school funds which are generally used to support activities such as uniforms for less advantaged pupils etc.

All alternatives will come with a cost attached sadly.

c) **(KL). Achievements.** This is being highlighted on the screen at the front of the school and the children are enjoying this and trying to find themselves and their friends. The number of achievements being shared seems to be increasing also. The school sports leaders are also going around to identify achievements of other children in the school.

Currently the school has 24 extracurricular clubs. We have grandparents coming in to run an art club, we have a photography club and we may be able to see a community action group and gardening all from parent volunteers. There does seem to be increased uptake from the wider school community to contribute to this. Varied sports, dance, music (p2 and p7), microbits and a large range of other activities are currently available.

Diversity (from priority 2 of SNIP). Still focusing on languages, culture, race but also looking to take a wider look at this. Working with a Scottish charity (forty from forty), gender focus, colourful heritage day this week (looking at other insights from history – eg the number of soldiers originating from India who were stationed in Scotland during WW2). A number of classes will be wanting to continue this work past the end of “diversity month”. Makaton is being taught to all school community (staff, pupils). We have a teacher working on Polish with her class and we have some Irish dancing being planned. There seems to be a class by class leadership on how this evolves, rather than being overly prescriptive about what each class needs to cover. This is the third time “diversity month” has been run in the school so both staff and children are now becoming more comfortable sharing their thoughts and personal experiences.

Children are creating portraits which will be presented at Diversity Evening (30/1/25, 6.30pm). There has been a use of external resources to help school staff in tackling some of the particularly difficult topics such as racism.

Anti-racism competition – any homework pupils are working on for this will be collected to be submitted on 31st January by Mrs Linn.

A question was asked of how the focus of diversity month is decided year on year. First year was a focus on ethnicity, last year had a broader range of diversities that may be experienced, this year there has been a more fluid discussion with each class with time set aside for the children to find their own areas of interest.

d) (JM). **SNIP focus on reading.** Library time is being timetabled for each class. Planning on a Valentine's Day "Love of Reading" day. There will be notification coming out soon for families. Children working hard on reading focus tables (eg rotating books in the library to be topical – such as Christmas/winter books around that time of year, Scottish books leading up to Burns night.) The school is happy to take donations of books and now there are some parent helpers coming in to keep the library organised weekly.

November – Scottish Book Week – p7 made puppet theatres.

March coming up – World Book Day – looking at treasure hunts in the library. And hoping to do "masked readers" with different teachers reading favourite texts and being recorded for each class.

The nursery children are also coming into the library, and there is a plan to get the p7 reading champions trained to read with some of the younger children.

e) (YD). **Supporting pupils** – the school is planning an updated policy on this

(LS) – some children require additional support at different times. GIRFEC being used to offer support as needed. Some children have specific wellbeing plans with targeted support and often working with educational psychologists. Previously the school would then generally liaise with parents once a plan has been created, but the school is now looking for a more collaborative approach (parents, child, support staff all in the same place at the same time) to make a mutually agreed plan which will be regularly reviewed in a similar fashion. This has improved engagement and also ensured all stakeholders are happy about the plan that is in place for each child who has a wellbeing plan. Within the school there are probably less than twenty pupils who have a wellbeing plan but it is clearly very important for those children and families.

"Wellbeing plan" refers to having a plan for a child when something is changing for a pupil in a time limited fashion, setting specific targets with a measurable impact intended by the end of that time. Some pupils may have a plan for a discrete period of time, whereas some pupils may have them for several sessions due to changing targets.

"My Universal Passport". These are child friendly documents. This will focus on things the child likes and things they find more challenging. The children will be involved in writing their own universal passport. There will be information there relevant for all those working with the child in all contexts – such as children with ongoing additional needs. There will be sections on these for parent comments also. This is just starting and will be used for children who have a need but who aren't working on specific time-limited targets. For example, a child with dyslexia who likes to use a speech to text...this is a way to ensure all those working with that child will know their ongoing and less dynamic needs. The expectation will be that there will be significantly more pupils who have these universal passports compared to wellbeing plans. They can obviously change as needed but some of the passports may stay fairly unchanged throughout their school career. They will be sent home a couple of times each year but can be updated as regularly as needed. These are more for children with identified additional support needs. Where parents come forward with other issues (such as recent bereavement in the family) then most children will have a specified, targeted programme with the pastoral leads put in place and would not have a universal passport.

With both of these the school is working on a more collaborative and joined up approach to ensure there is mutual agreement on the approach for each child and also to empower the children so they know why they have a plan and what is in it.

This is replacing and updating an existing policy which had been in place since before covid. There are wider ERC broad policies which then feed into the individual school policies. This is the case for most school policies.

YD has stressed that all parents should contact the school if they feel their child has a need of any kind which the school should be aware of which may be appropriate for a "universal passport" to be implemented.

8) (JR). **Support for Pupils Policy.**

Overarching policy covering a number of different areas.

Rationale – “Inclusivity” is key and focusing on developing each person’s unique talents, ensuring children requiring additional support are given appropriate provision suitable to meet their particular needs.

Parts of the pupil support policy.

- Child Protection
- Inclusion and Equality
- Anti-bullying / anti-racism
- Additional Support Needs
- More able pupils
- Promoting positive behaviour

JR asked parent council members for their views on what the school currently does well and what the school could do better. The PC spent ~ 10 minutes in a workshop writing their views on this which will be used to help the school form their policies.

- 9) **ERC Connect.** There is an opportunity for parents to attend a session on “Building an anti-racist school community” and also one on “Scottish Apprenticeships with Skills Development Scotland”.
- 10) **AOCB.** PC has had a some emails from children attending Clarkston Afterschool Service (CAS). The fees of CAS based at church have increased and there is a question as to whether after school provision could take place within the school. Ultimately this is an ERC decision, but to have an after school provider within the school would affect the number of other after school clubs which could run. Another message from parents with children at CAS has asked if the PC can put pressure on ERC to allow this. There is a question of whether there is money to be made for ERC here, but other facilities within the school such as kitchen facilities would require to also be considered. Also none of this money would come to the school itself. This will be fed back further to those parents who have messaged the PC about this.
- 11) **Date of next meeting 26th March 2025.**

Adam Capek

24/01/2025