Lawhead School Parent Council Meeting Minutes (M Cox)

6:30 Monday 29th January 2024-01-29

1.Welcome by Chair Rachel Deegan

2. Present/apologies: Present: Rachel Deegan, Sienna Sproson, Melanie Dobie, Melati Cox, Pablo Annibale, Mrs Bain, Mrs Simpson, Miss Forsythe, Cllr Robin Lawson

3. Minutes from last parent council meeting approved

4. Head teacher report. Mrs Bain discussed updates from her Headteacher’s report. Full report available in writing.

Staffing updates shared.

School improvement plan update – currently in year 3 of 3 year cycle. Focus on improving writing. This is happening across the school and nursery. Currently on track to meet goals across the school. Continued progress in computing science. Staff have been receiving upskilling and training in computing science, embedding French in the curriculum and BSL.

Outdoor work to improve nursery area planned for when weather permits

PEF-funded PSA supporting P6 with numeracy support for pupils who need it

Draft copy of anti-bulling policy on website today – Mrs Bain plans to solicit parent responses to this and is eager to hear feedback.

Open afternoon coming up with a Scottish theme – children will have opportunities to see Scottish Country Dancing and Scots poems. Date has been advertised through school calendar since August and in recent editions of Weekly Newsletter.

P7 residential booked and confirmed – information to current P6 parents to go out soon regarding deposits and payment.

Attendance statistics are very good for Lawhead, however punctuality is increasingly a problem. Increasing numbers of children are arriving between 9 and 9.15, which is disruptive to the flow of the classroom day and these children are missing out on learning and social interaction time.

Mrs Bain had the opportunity to respond to parent questions submitted for the meeting:

* **How do the results of Lawhead assessments compare to National averages?**

Lawhead p4 sitting well within national averages (Scotland) for Numeracy and Writing. In Literacy, Lawhead outperforms national average. In all of these areas the vast majority of P4s are on track to achieve expected levels or to exceed this level. The P7 NSAs results were even better than p4 results.

* **Please can you explain what the Improvement Methodology is?**

Mrs Bain gave a short presentation on the Quality Improvement Methodology currently being promoted for use across education in Scotland and in use at Lawhead.

Lawhead has been using different working models and tools used by many large organisations to assist in implementing change, including the NHS. This approach is evidence based and data driven and provides a structure to support problem solving. There are many models in use, such as the Plan, Do, Study, Act cycle (PDSA).

These models provide a structure for staff to more easily identify an area for improvement, propose an intervention, then study the results of that intervention. It can be used across the school, in a classroom or year group, or with a smaller group of children.

* **What is the behaviour and relationships strategy mentioned in the HT report?**

The Promoting Positive Relationships and Behaviour Policy is a school policy outlining the ways in which the school promotes positive behaviour. The full text is available for everyone to read in the School Policies section on the school website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/fi/lawheadps/our-school/school-policies/>

Discussion points from learning partnership next steps:

- How to involve wider parent community in school improvement priorities

Can PC play a role in engaging with school improvement more? Even in answering surveys? PC happy to volunteer to help with upcoming Parents Evenings to staff a table to encourage parents to answer surveys. Older children could also help.

5. Anti- bullying policy discussion

Updated Anti-bullying policy draft has been posted on school website for anyone to read. Mrs Bain eager to receive feedback from wider parent community.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/fi/lawheadps/our-school/school-policies/>

6. LP- Fundraising – applications and proposal for new trim trail

Group discussion of how to spend PC money, further money gained from grants or local organisations (such as the R&A). The parent survey conducted by PC indicated a preference for spending money on a new trim trail at school or other outdoor play equipment.

Trim trail potentially v expensive (tens of thousands) and requires ongoing maintenance on an annual basis. Any funding for this would this would need to be included in PC funding. Another issue to consider is that these installations may require planning and cooperation with Council estates team.

Mrs Simpson reminded the group that due to weather, the pitch is often not in use for the children. The school could benefit from a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)which would provide a non-muddy surface for children to use throughout the year.

The latest update on the extension to the school is that this will most likely begin 2025. At the moment the school has not been informed of the likely location of the extension on the school site. We need to be aware of where this extension is likely to take place so that trim trails or similar are not placed in an inappropriate location.

7. Mobile phones- is there a place for mobile phones in school?

- Use of dumb phones

- Screen time in school

Mobile phone policy – Mrs Bain reports that the school has received many positive comments and feedback from parents in support of the recent change in policy. Children will need to sign phones in and out at reception at the beginning and end of school day.

Smart watches are increasingly becoming a problem at school. They can distract children from their learning, distract their classmates, and some do not have ‘school mode’ options. Some smart watches have recording capability, which can create problems if children are recording their peers or teachers. Mrs Bain advises that these might need to be taken out of the classroom environment as well, but the school is currently reviewing the situation and continuing this discussion with the children.

For parents looking for a smart phone alternative that would enable their children ton contact them before and after school, the school could produce guidance document suggesting alternative “dumb phones” which could be appropriate for children. These would still need to be signed in. The PC would be able to assist with this.

Mrs Simpson and Mrs Bain confirmed that all regular screen time in class has an educational link with the curriculum. There are movie screenings at special times of year (Christmas) which do not fit into this.

8. Swimming gala and netball completion – any parent volunteers needed?

Lawhead will be fielding teams from school for upcoming Netball tournament and Swimming gala. Melanie Dobie has been coordinating this with school leadership. Member of school staff taking children to Netball and Melanie helping with Swimming Gala. Mrs Bain will be speaking to pupils soon to gauge interest for these events.

9. Learning at home – when will this be uploaded to the school website?

This has now been added to the school website and includes suggestions and links to resources for parents to support learning at home. More to follow. <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/fi/lawheadps/learning-at-home/>

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/fi/lawheadps/learning-at-home/mental-maths/>

10. P7 hoodies – £150 was raised by the P7s at the Christmas fair to go towards the hoodies, and we agreed at the meeting that the P7s could be given a task to sell something at the upcoming Easter disco Wed 27th March. Possibly glow sticks or similar.

11. Date of next meeting: April 29th 2024, in person

12. Close of meeting