



Wallacewell Primary

Parent Council

Monday 13th November 2023

Present: Laura Davidson (HT), Ross Nisbet (Vice Chair), Caryn Smith (Secretary), Elizabeth Smith (Secretary), Valentina Vagka (Treasurer), Craig Roberston (Nursery Head), Jean Miller (Head of Service), Christina Cannon (Councillor SNP/Early Years Convener)

1. **Welcome & Introductions** - HT welcomed all and introductions made. Ross welcomed our visitors.
2. **Previous Minutes** – Minutes agreed. HT will share on the Parent Council section of the school website.
3. **School Capacity Discussion–**

As a direct result of the previous parent council meeting, Jean Miller and Christina Cannon had accepted our invitation to attend. The focus of this meeting was to highlight and discuss one of our grand challenges i.e. the state of the pitch and capacity of the school.

Background - When Wallacewell Primary was initially opened the role was 217. The current role is currently 392 with a projected role of over 400 for 2024-25. This is a matter of concern for families. There was some discussion about working capacity and planned capacity.

Jean Miller addressed the meeting advising that she had already met with Miss Davidson to discuss these concerns and has since asked for the capacity to be reviewed. On the subject of the pitch, JM is aware of the issues of health and safety. There are frequent occasions when the pitch cannot be used. With the school roll being what it is, losing this outdoor facility increases pressure on other indoor areas of the building. JM has agreed to look into this and see what can be done.

Miss Davidson further highlighted school concerns about the pitch especially as a muster point in case of emergency which have been raised with GCC. The increase in pupil numbers creates another issue in such an event. She has already trialled other muster points (grass verge, overflow car park) in a bid to resolve this issue but without success. She consequently believes that, at this point in time, the pitch is

the best option and therefore requires improvement for the health and safety reasons. JM agreed. Craig Robertson also emphasised the importance of the pitch to the nursery.

JM raised the possibility of a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and Miss Davidson welcomed this idea. JM stated that she would investigate possible scenarios e.g. reducing the size of the pitch, in an attempt to resolve this issue and report back to the PC and HT.

Christina Cannon had highlighted that she too was aware of the issues in the school and she would be ensuring that others were made aware of them too. It is her belief that if money is available (Section 75) that this should be used to help finance work on the pitch and expansion of the school. She is attending a meeting on December 1st and will make a strong case for this to be supported. The Director of Education is aware of the growing concerns about school capacity and the pitch.

A discussion then ensued about the capacity of the school. New housing developments both in the private and the public sector have increased pressures on the school and will continue to do so for the next few years. This begins with the nursery transition numbers and continues at all stages in the primary. JM mentioned the possibility of double storey modular accommodation. Miss Davidson welcomed this suggestion. Whilst this would not necessarily increase capacity, it would consequently protect other spaces in the school which would ensure successful delivery of all elements of the curriculum e.g. PE, expressive arts.

Next Steps - Ross thanked Jean and Christina for attending. Both promised to provide feedback to PC. It was suggested that they could attend the meeting in February 2024 to report back to the PC. PC will arrange invites in the New Year.

4. Next Meeting - It was agreed that the next meeting will be the 15th of January 2024. All welcome. Agenda to follow.

5. AOCB - Chairperson shared some partners that could support the school and local community going forward.