



Wallacewell Primary

Parent Council

Monday 3rd June 2024

Present: Laura Davidson (HT), Ross Nisbet (Chair), Caryn Smith (Vice Chair), Elizabeth Smith (Secretary), Valentina Vagka (Treasurer), Denise White (Fundraising Coordinator)

1. **Welcome** - Ross welcomed all to the meeting.

2. **Headteacher Update** -

As we approach the final few weeks of the school year, there are a few important updates to let you know about that will be shared in our final newsletter of the year this month.

We have had a very successful year planning education experiences for our children. Most recently all pupils had the opportunity to attend one of our end of year trips to Blair Drummond Safari Park. Everyone had a lovely day out. We successfully hosted our first every House Sports Days and had the pleasure of working with the Rookie Rockstars this term to develop pupils understanding of anti-bullying

In previous correspondence with families we have mentioned the cuts being made to education services in Glasgow. Thank you to everyone who sent letters prepared by our Parent Council in protest. These cuts have serious implications for schools across the city, but some specific consequences for Wallacewell Primary next year will include:

- Reduced amount of literacy and numeracy support including Dyslexia identification
- Limited after-school clubs
- Reduced supervision in playground and in the lunch hall
- Fewer opportunities for showcase learning, family learning and engagement with parents
- Reduction in soft start provision

However, our promise to families is that we will carry on working hard and doing our best to provide quality learning experiences and a welcoming environment for our young people. The patience and understanding of our families as we navigate new and unprecedented challenges will be very much appreciated.

Teacher numbers for next year are settled, and we can confirm that due to the budget cuts, we will have the equivalent of just over 1½ fewer teachers next session. We are currently working on class allocations for next session and hope to have teacher names to families soon.

Report cards will be issued on the last week of term.

We have consulted with all stakeholders regarding our PEF allocation and improvement priorities for next session and will share with families our plans in due course. We are also finalising our school VALUES consultation and hope to have our refreshed VISION, VALUES & AIMS organised for returning back to school in August 2024.

3. Treasurer Update –

The balance of the PC account is c.£109 – exact figure to be presented at the first meeting of the new school year.

4. Chair Update -

a) Ross was invited by Robroyston Community Council to attend a meeting with representatives of Glasgow City Council's Education department, including Douglas Hutchison (Executive Director of Education) on Tuesday 28th May 2024. His minutes from that meeting, recorded from the perspective of the Parent Council, follow:

Minutes from the meeting with: Douglas Hutchison (Executive Director of Education Services), Lisa Le Grove (Group Manager), Samir Sharma (Quality Improvement Officer)

Meeting also attended by: Councillor Audrey Dempsey; Alana Muir (Robroyston Community Council), Ross Nisbet (Chair of Wallacewell Primary School Parent Council), other representatives of the local community, including individuals from the parent/carer community

School Pitch: Douglas acknowledged that the pitch has exceeded its useful life, based on the findings of a survey conducted by Council officers. He and Lisa estimated that it would cost between £300,000 and £400,000 to replace.

Douglas confirmed that the Council does not have the money to replace the pitch and suggested that the developer contribution (Section 75 money) is the only current means of paying for a replacement pitch (that does not cover maintenance and eventual further replacement).

The alternative is to wait until Capital Investment funding becomes available, but no timescales can be placed on that, and the point was made by Douglas that Wallacewell Primary School would be in competition with other schools in the Council area whose pitches also need to be replaced. Ross asked for a copy of the survey and will contact Robroyston Community Council to discuss the process of distributing Section 75 money to local projects.

The Council acknowledges that it would be liable for any injury caused to a child or teacher because of the condition of the pitch.

Modular Classroom Accommodation: Douglas and Lisa confirmed that the modular accommodation (huts) is permanent and has a design life of 100 years. They referenced a report produced by Council officers stating that the modulars were in good condition but identified some minor repairs. Douglas will check the status of those repairs. Ross asked for a copy of the report and an update on the repairs when available.

One of the parents present mentioned some issues she had heard about in relation to the modular such as broken heating and lack of internet access. The parent was asked by Ross to – and was asked by Ross to share details. Separately, Douglas also confirmed that any extension to the school would need to be funded by the developer contribution currently.

Capacity: Lisa confirmed that the theoretical capacity of the school was 454 and next year's role was 425. Ross made the point that the school might be able to house that number of pupils, but there are concerns that current facilities couldn't cope with those numbers and that service delivery would be negatively impacted as a result.

Lisa said that she would provide the Parent Council with an explanation of how capacity is calculated and referenced interventions that were taking place during the summer to create additional learning space, e.g., building a partition in the library. Lisa also confirmed that toilet provision at the school was adequate for the number of pupils enrolled.

Transport to Smithycroft Secondary School: Douglas confirmed that the recognised safe walkable distance to secondary school was 2.2 miles and children from homes that exceeded this should use their National Entitlement Card (NEC) to get the bus to school. He also confirmed that First Bus had assured the Council that its 8 and 38 services had the capacity to transport pupils from Robroyston and the surrounding areas to Smithycroft.

One of the parents present said that she lived 3.3 miles from Smithycroft and 1.3 miles from the nearest local bus stop servicing Smithycroft. Douglas said that consideration would be given to providing transport for those pupils who do not live within easy reach of a bus stop, but that he could not intervene until replies had been issued to requests for travel assistance. He said he would find out when those decisions are due to be communicated. The school issued a travel survey to P7 parents on behalf of the Parent Council shortly after the meeting with GCC to enable the PC to help gauge demand for a separate school bus service to Smithycroft.

Disappointingly, as of 03.06.24 only 9 of the 54 families provided with a survey had responded.

Issues not discussed because of time restraints: Wallacewell Primary School car park/pick-up and drop-off point and access road.

b) Ross will work on creating a Facebook page for the Parent Council, before the end of the current term if possible. This page will focus on the passing on of information only. Any comments or enquiries should, as ever, be directed through the proper school channels.

We will also investigate the possibility of setting up a TEAMS account. Parents could join in a virtual PC meeting to encourage more parents/carers to come on board and participate in supporting our children.

c) Our Grand Challenges will be carried forward to next session and we will continue to focus on them. Transport to Smithycroft will be addressed as early as possible, to ensure that P7 pupils can enjoy their final year without the stresses of transport worries. This requires all parent/carers of P7 children to make their voices heard in support.

The PC will continue to fundraise in order to provide selection boxes, creme eggs and a contribution towards P7 hoodies. These will be ordered in September of next session.

Denise White, our Fundraising Coordinator, will explore any avenues (grants, charitable organisations etc) in order to find out what, if any, are available to us.

5. **AOCB**

- PC will be involved in June disco.
- PC will also continue to be involved in Halloween and Christmas activities.
- PC will continue to support WPS. We believe that this has been a good first year and aim to build on this next session.