



Wallacewell Primary

Parent Council

Monday 26th August 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. We were all very pleased to welcome along Seham Nagi, Christopher Ibeh and Peace Ibeh who participated in our discussions.

2. **Headteacher Update** -

Budget Cuts

At the end of last session, we made families aware of the impact of the budget cuts being made to education services in Glasgow. These cuts have serious implications for schools across the city, but some specific consequences for Wallacewell Primary this year 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

We had previously shared that there would be a reduction in soft start provision. We have managed to maintain this provision for the time being.

We confirmed in June 2024 that due to the budget cuts we now have the equivalent of just over 1.5 fewer teachers. As a direct result, Depute Head Teachers are now class committed for over 1.5 days each per week. This means that SLT, including the HT, are not as available to speak to families or respond to phone calls/emails.

Although teacher numbers are currently settled, the census will take place at the end of September 2024. This may result in the further reduction of teaching staff and subsequent reclarification of classes. We will keep families up to date if the census impacts our school in this way.

Despite the challenges the budget cuts pose, we promise 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 is very much appreciated.

Capacity & Building Works

Our current pupil numbers are 411. Our Primary 1 cap for session 2024-25 was increased from 62 to 85. We currently have 72 Primary 1 pupils on our role.

We have 16 classes this session, which is an increase from last years 15 classes.

Building works were completed in the school over the Summer Break. Our old computer room has been split in two. This gives us two rooms. One is our staffroom. The other is our P4-7 Creative Enquiry Base. Our old staffroom is being used for literacy and numeracy intervention. The old intervention space (Sparkleroom) is now our 16th classroom.

All classes have been fitted with a Smart TV which replaces our old projectors and screens.

Road Traffic Issues

As all families will be aware, the road leading to our school continues to be problematic for parent/carers, school staff and other road users. Whilst we understand the frustrations that the road traffic issues continue to cause we have had to remind our school community that the school do not have any control over the road outside the school.

We have sent out several reminders since starting back after the summer reminding everyone of our carpark procedures, which have been in place for over a year for the protection of the 410 children we serve. These reminders have also provided suggestions on what families can do to help alleviate the ongoing issues.

This morning I held a meeting with Police Scotland where the schools ongoing concerns were discussed at length. As a result, an initiative has been actioned. Following this meeting we have also reminded families of the following –

- All procedures that are in place at school level are to ensure the health and safety of our children, families and staff.
- Families are encouraged to walk to school wherever possible. If unable to walk to school, families should park safely away from the school, on the surrounding streets, being mindful of the highway code.
- Drivers must not park on the zig zag lines, grass verges or kerbs. This is dangerous for pedestrians and prevents access for emergency services and dedicated schools transport e.g. the school bus.
- It is our expectation that all visitors, parents and carers respect the staff and children of Wallacewell, adhere to the Nurturing Principles and respect the rights of everyone. We will not tolerate abuse of any kind towards staff members. Any anti-social behaviour of this nature will be reported to Police Scotland, and may result in perpetrators not being allowed access to the school grounds.

Following liaison with GCC's Health and Safety Team and the Area Head of Service, Jean Miller, we would like to ask for the support of the Parent Council to continue to raise concerns with Glasgow City Council about the road traffic issues on behalf of the parent body

3. Chair Update

a) AGM

The parent council will deliver an update on where we currently stand at the AGM on **Monday 23rd September 2024.**

There will be a Q and A session and this will be a face to face meeting. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

We will ratify our aims and objectives to let everyone know where we are going forward. The Parent Council and the school believe that session 2023-24 was successful for the Parent Council. Our aim for 2024-25 is to build on last years success and progress.

b) Priorities for year ahead

We will continue to highlight the ongoing issues with the pitch.

We will continue to voice our concerns on behalf of the parent body about the road leading to the school and the pickup and drop off zone.

We will endeavour to offer support with transitioning from Primary to Secondary, focusing on any transport issues that arise.

Through our fundraising efforts we will continue to give a donation towards P7 hoodies and Christmas Selection Boxes and Easter Crème Eggs.

We will continue to be involved in fund raising activities such as Hallowe'en Disco, Christmas Fayre, Spring Disco and Summer Fayre.

c) Meeting with QIO

At time of writing a meeting had been planned with Samir Sharma (QIO) for Tuesday the 27th August 2024. Miss Davidson and Ross Nisbet will attend. The focus of discussions will be the Summary and Condition Inspection Report. The inspection was carried out in May 2024 and a report was shared with the HT, Parent Council and Community Council in June 2024. A summary of the outcome of this meeting will be shared at the next Parent Council Meeting in September 2024.

d) Meeting frequency

Previously the PC had discussed the possibility of holding virtual meetings to allow easier access for all but it would appear that problems with connectivity might prohibit this. This was discussed and Christopher Ibeh offered his support which we are very happy to consider going forward. We also discussed the possibility of a zoom call in our October meeting.

4. Treasurer's Update

Bank Balance Update (5th July 2024) = £939.81

Upcoming commitments

- September 2025 – Primary 7 Hoodies = £250

5. AOB

An interesting discussion took place about the accessibility of letters and other documents issued by the school for EAL families. The school already have a translation function on their website which makes the platform more accessible. The Groupcall Xpressions system used for emailing also allows for the translation of messages/emails. Neither Groupcall or the website translate attachments. It was suggested that these could be translated to ease this situation. Seham offered to support with the translation of Parent Council minutes for Arabic families.