

**Chair: Andy Fairchild
Vice-Chair: Angela Hughes**



**Secretary: Avril Storrie
Treasurer: Karen Black**

Parent Council

**AGENDA - Monday 23rd November 2020
ZOOM @ 6.30 PM**

- 1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES**
- 2. MINUTES & ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**
- 3. UPDATE FROM MRS McFARLANE**
PC - Would like to discuss New School - Where to go from here!
- 4. ROAD SAFETY UPDATE**
Any news on design Parent Submitted?
- 5. TREASURER REPORT UPDATE**
- 6. FUNDRAISING UPDATE**
Boards and allocation of Fundraising.
- 7. ITEMS RAISED THROUGH PARENT COUNCIL FROM PARENTS**
Asking about Presents for Teachers and Support Staff again?
- 8. A.O.B**
- 9. REVIEW OF AGREED ACTIONS AND OWNERS**
- 10. Date of next meeting:**

11th Jan 2021 - 6:30pm - ZOOM, unless anything changes!!

MINUTES OF MEETING OF GARTCOSH PRIMARY PARENTS COUNCIL 23/11/2020 @6.30pm on Zoom

Present: Mrs McFarlane, Mrs Fisher, Andy Fairchild, Angela Hughes, Karen Black, Gemma Boggs, Chris Blair, Funmi Sanusi, Charlotte McKinstry, Dave Slater, Sophie Li-Barker

Apologies: Sheila Darkins, Avril Storrie

Welcome introduction and apologies

Meeting chaired by Andy Fairchild

Update from Mrs McFarlane

Ventilation

NL schools have ramped up the heating due to windows requiring to be permanently open in classrooms. Mrs McFarlane reports that there is a system in place to move the children around in class, in order that different children are near the window. Essentially, the heating is going up and they are trying to have the kids outside as much as possible. The guidance is to encourage the children to dress in layers to adjust to the changes. If the children are out for breaks or PE, staff are opening the windows wide to allow "a change in air".

Road safety

Mrs McFarlane had submitted a letter to Education Manager, Margaret Hunter, about this issue, but unfortunately the message back from NL hasn't been encouraging. Their reasons were that there have insufficient accidents recorded outside the school, therefore they won't step in at present.

She notes that St Maurice's High School has a campaign/survey to get a crossing outside school. Something for us to consider?

Meanwhile, the PC will continue to put out notices on the PC Facebook page periodically, concerning the parked cars and safety issues.

New School

Mrs McFarlane advises that there is little progress in the situation indicating that there is potentially an update coming in December with recent contact made between the Parent Council and local councillors, who indicated more news was due around Christmas, seeming to confirm this.

The main question discussed – where do we go from here?

Mrs McFarlane proposes that the PC seek advice directly from the Education Manager, inviting herself too. Keeping it high on agenda is priority. The suggestion was made to ask for an update on Gartcosh from this department.

It has been noted that other schools use the power of social media (throughout this time it has shown us how powerful it can be) with the likelihood that we can reach a wider audience and gain a response, our message stating that we simply need a new school. Certainly maintaining distances between the children and staff is difficult, especially in the P4 - P7 classes.

We bear in mind that indoor PE is impossible at present. The hall is currently a corridor, a breakfast club and more. Is there a solution to support the children

meantime? Mrs McFarlane is open to ideas, such as using the Community Hall across the road for PE.

Rev. Dave Slater advises that unfortunately, the church hall is currently suspended. Down the line, they would like to support the school in opening up this space. He raises another point: are NL planning for the right capacity for a new school, knowing that we are unable to predict the number of children appearing from the new developments?

The frustrating fact is that we are supposed to be in the new school in August 2021, but looks to be potentially 3 - 4 years now and likely more. Presently, the pupil count is 225 (226 in three weeks time), rising to approximately 240 for next year's intake. Action required after contact with NL in December - the Parent Council will discuss a plan at the next meeting in the New Year depending on what news comes in December.

December school plans

Nice surprises are in store! Mrs McFarlane would not reveal much. A wee visitor had been to school today – the Kindness Elf had created a lot of excitement. The staff are ensuring that the children are having as nice a time as possible in school. Mrs McFarlane advises that they are looking at doing tests to judge any impact that the first lockdown has had on the children, but this will take time due to sanitising considerations. They continue with literacy and numeracy, while avoiding singing.

School times

Feedback from parents have asked to have the staggered time gap reduced, due to the difficulty in keeping younger children entertained or dry for fifteen minutes while waiting for their older siblings.

Mrs McFarlane advises and apologises that there are no plans to alter the staggered times presently. The current method functions well and considers the number of exits/entrances and class schedules.

Treasurer Report Update

Karen Black advised that our current balance is £2,230.63

£700 had been transferred to the school in the last month, for outdoor equipment. The Advent Calendar Concert 2020 plan has generated £170 in donations so far from local businesses.

Mrs McFarlane advises that the planned outdoor toys have yet to be purchased. She is re-evaluating what to buy, to make allowances for the sanitising procedures now required for such items after each use, as well as the severe lack of storage in the school.

Fundraising meeting

The outcome of this meeting held three weeks ago was discussed. By allocating funds to one or two smart boards for one or two classes, we raise the difficult issue of parents not seeing their donations widely distributed throughout the school.

Mrs McFarlane listed other essentials for the school which would benefit from PC funds:

iPads

There are currently 50 iPads for 225 kids, which cannot be swapped around easily, due to the sanitising procedure.

Outdoor equipment

Outside equipment for the school, including a climbing wall/ Polytunnel/ trim trail for climbing. The playground would welcome (climbing) boxes and any manner of outdoor resources that can remain outside, to be used by all years. Overhanging swings placed round the edges wouldn't take up much room and would be well received. She is open to suggestions and comments on the outdoor bikes, rowing and attractive playing field at Hilltop Primary as something to strive towards.

A Parent Council member has been in touch with Springfield, who are keen to support the school and further discussion will take place regarding the potential for this support.

Mrs McFarlane reiterates that outdoor equipment would be ideal and to plan for the current school, rather than wait for the new school with its far off date.

She also reports that the ongoing staggered playtimes and lunches have been a revelation for allowing more space per child, and plans to continue with it.

Actions

Mrs McFarlane to get costing for iPads, as they require to be centrally sourced.

Mrs McFarlane to specify outdoor equipment for funding by potential external funding/sponsor.

Mrs McFarlane to encourage P5 - P7 years, as well as staff, to partake in the Christmas Advent Concert.

PC to create a link for donations on Facebook.

Mrs Fisher to set up the Advent Concerts via Glow.

Final point

Mrs McFarlane explains that objects cannot come into the school – presents and cards. This has always been discouraged but is crucial in the current climate.

Mrs Fisher suggests making videos instead to thank the staff e.g. a message on Glow, should people insist.

Next meeting 11th January 6.30pm Zoom