

Chair: Andy Fairchild
Vice Chair: Angela Hughes



Secretary: Avril Storrie
Treasurer: Karen Black

MINUTES OF MEETING OF GARTCOSH PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

05/09/2022 @ 6.30 PM on ZOOM

Present - Mrs McFarlane, Mrs Fisher, Andy Fairchild, Angela Hughes, Gemma Boggs, Charlotte McKinstry, Chris Blair, Dave Slater, Andy Langford,

Apologies: Karen Black (treasurer), Avril Storrie (secretary), Deborah Bruce, Sheila Darkins, Funmi Sanusi

1. WELCOME INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES

Meeting chaired by Andy Fairchild

2. MINUTES & ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Agreed.

3. UPDATE FROM MRS MCFARLANE

- Lovely start to the year for all the school.
- School total is 235 children. Expecting numbers to gradually increase.
- **School Improvement Plan:-** 3 main areas
 - Writing – working on between now and December, improving writing specifically between P5 & P6 with a general improvement across the school. Using some of our PEF fund to bring in a member of staff one day a week as P5 & P6 move on from first level on to second level...additional support as things get a wee bit harder.
 - Assessment & Moderation – Cluster improvement area based on writing. Looking at making sure all staff across the cluster, when assessing writing, are all talking on same levels.
 - Review of Curriculum Rationale – Beginning this year but won't finish. Taking in discussion with other people, other clusters, parents & children to look to see what's important and be able to streamline what we do and how we do it.
- **Classes**
 - 10 classes.
 - Support staff member, Andy Murtagh, started so we have Debbie and Andy who are 25 hours, Claire who's 12.5 hours. Still looking for more so NLC will go round each of the clusters to be able to look at the provision and need and hopefully that will be settled Andy is only temporary until all the happens.

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- Cluster Support teacher x 2, Claire Howie & Lynn Murray. They've been working with us for a long time. Ms McF is cluster chair, we look at the needs across all of the schools, they would do blocks. As we're looking at a new P1 programme, we've got both ladies for this term but we might not have them for the rest of the year. Might have them for staff training and different issues.
- Cluster resource teacher x 2. GPS will get Emma Tipping 2 days a week, Thursday & Friday. She works with our P3/4s to allow Shona to be out of class full time.
- Cluster Attainment Teacher, looking at attainment levels across the cluster and where needs help. Returns Wednesday 07/09.
- This is part of NLC trying to increase provision and support across the cluster.
- **Homework**
 - P4-7 homework has changed.
 - Decided to change the 'awards for Gartcosh' and make it homework, making it a wee bit different. school total to 245
 - When we have our Meet The Teacher, there will be 3 slots during the day to explain what and why we're doing it
 - When homework was made voluntary last year, we got roughly 2 children out of 30 doing homework.
 - Trying to make homework as flexible as possible and community based, going in to next year, Shona and I have plans to develop the Young Workforce so this will be a lead into that.
- **School Hall**
 - Still have community centre across road, 3 mornings & 2 afternoons which has allowed more flexibility.
 - Discussion with church for use of church all, getting that on a Friday. Maybe not every week but we'd like to be able to look at your nativities this year and be able to possibly have children showing assemblies to parents or a time for the whole school to be together which will be really nice.
 - Dave Slater has also kindly offered that we can have our Christmas, Easter and Summer services in the church. They may not be open to parents.
- **P7 Residential**
 - Looking at 2 night trip, trying to cost it at the moment.
 - Different type than Strathclyde Park.
 - Hopefully finalised in next few days and put it to the P7 parents, to ask if we can confirm and parents can start paying it up.
- **After School Clubs - Shona**
 - Lovely to get people in again.
 - Spoke to children for ideas, found someone who can come in to teach knitting.
 - Football starting for P6&7 Tuesday 06/09.
 - Bikeability starting 14/09 for P5.
 - Victoria from Starstruck has been in today, she's going to come in and work with classes as a block initially as part of PE. When she has more staff, she'll come in after school.
 - Trying to get staff and other people involved, any willing volunteers are more than welcome.
 - Rookie Rockstars – ukelele/guitar lessons. Going to cost them.

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- Looking at committess starting back too.
- Charlotte is helping in polytunnel.
- **Other**
 - Christmas Fayre.

4. ROAD SAFETY UPDATE

- Parking Buddies are in operation, quite heavy...even more so when filled up. Trolley could be an option for them to be wheeled across. Problem getting someone to put them out and taking them back in.
- Got in touch with Elaine Parkes again to chat about 'Car Free Zones' in NLC.
- Walking buses could be an option, from estates round Gartcosh.
- Active Schools could assist.
- GB noted that Gartloch Road/A752 may not be ideal for wee ones with an adult.
- No signage to advise of school nearby. AH to contact NLC regarding more signage, DS will also contact Cllr McPake direct.
- AH to make date with JRSOs to go over Traffic poster.
- Car has been parking in middle of road to collect child. May need another letter from school to remind of the parking situation.

5. TREASURER REPORT UPDATE

Karen Black unable to attend, update to follow.

- AMcF advised that Showcase cinema booked for December, looking for PC support for that. Same day as Christmas Jumper Day.

6. FUNDRAISING

Not back in to the swing of things, meeting to be set.

- Next big event will be Christmas Fayre. Date set for Saturday 3rd December 2022 in school.
- Thursday 27th October Halloween Disco at Social Club. School are allowed back to disco.
- Rather than Spooky Walk in October, doing something to tie in to World Book Day.
- School will work out costume day around disco.
- School teddies. DB had an idea of selling the GPS teddies as a fundraiser, AH to look in to cost. Teddy stall at the Fayre also an option.
- Possible fundraising option is GPS branded notebooks etc.

7. ITEMS RAISED THROUGH THE PARENT COUNCIL

- a. P5 swimming lessons - P5 mum advised that her niece/nephew school PC paid for transport and school paid for lessons.
 - i. AMcF has asked Vicki to look into this before, using PEF fund.
 - ii. Not a huge amount left, approx. £2,000 for lessons and same again for bus.

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- iii. School will look into it again.
- iv. Would need to be an NLC pool to be covered by insurance.
- b. Staggered Times – P2 parents felt it was a bit chaotic at 3pm pick up.
 - i. School tried to have smaller pupils coming out bottom gate to be matched up and older pupils coming out top gate.
 - ii. Staggered start equals staggered breaks which meant staff had shorter breaks and less teaching time.
 - iii. School are open to suggestions, they try to bring P1 out couple of minutes earlier.
 - iv. Possible to ask for 1 parent per child at pick up?
- c. P7 Residential Trips
 - i. Covered in AMcF update above.

8. A.O.B

- Gin
 - Still ongoing, school not keen on association with alcohol...advised that it would be a community project.
 - Possibly cost prohibited due to uptake, could open up to wider community as only parents were asked.
- Senior Tie
 - GB noted that P7s have black jumper but no senior tie. AMcF advised that uniform could be revamped when new school is established, pupils can contribute ideas.
- Fundraising Teddies
 - Covered in Fundraising above.
- New School Working Group
 - On hold
- Contractor Parking
 - Covered in Road Safety/Items Raised above.
- PC Roles
 - GB mentioned on Whatsapp about different roles attached to PC members, how we divvy up what we do and have someone specific for each role.
- School website
 - NLC have a financial inclusion team, out with the school, links are on school website if anyone needs help.
- Upcoming Vacancies
 - AF, KB and AS are leaving PC...Chair, Treasurer and Secretary positions will become vacant at AGM.
 - AF to pass info & NLC content to Vicki for issue to parents.
 - Company called Connect work with NLC regarding running of PC.
- Christmas Cards
 - All need to be back by September Weekend. It is early but we/school get better commission.

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9. REVIEW OF AGREED ACTIONS

10. Date of Next Meeting

- AGM Monday 10th October 2022 at 6:30pm on Zoom.