Orchard Primary School

Interim Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 6th September

Present: Anne Dexter, Laura Watt, Jill Woodward, Helen Mackenzie, Heather McKendrick, Jan Devenay, Lisa Gardner, Lauren Anthony, Jacqueline Smith, Lesley Histead and Jennifer Kerr

Parents present Gary Sloan, Michelle Gray, Nicole Kerr and Lesley Mitchell

Anne welcomed everyone to our first meeting in the new session and it was great to

see some new parents joining us to hear what is going on.

Tie update – As everyone knows each child was given a tie we had some spare ties in

each school and the shop in Motherwell had some left. These have now all be sold.

During the holidays the shop in Motherwell was going to order more tartan and

produce more ties but we discovered that they were using the wrong thread colours

for the school badge and when we went to talk to them about it they got very upset

and refused to do anything else for us so Lisa has been working very hard over the

holidays to source another place to get the ties produced. The schoolwear shop in

Wishaw is now going to be producing them for us and so will have all the uniform

available there for parents to buy. Lisa is liaising with them to make sure ties are

right tartan before they go into full production. Hopefully this will be sorted in the

next few days so hopefully we will have ties available in about six weeks time. The ties

will be priced at £3.75 which will be cheaper than the shop in Motherwell. A

discussion took place.

Constitution – Need a new one for Orchard PS Parent Council and a discussion took

place as to whether it was up to the Interim Parent Council or whether the new

Orchard Primary Parent Council should look at it. A discussion took place. The next

meeting which is the AGM was discussed. We think that we have to letter the

Parent Forum to let them know and also what vacancies there are. A discussion took

place as it was not clear how we go about forming the new Parent Council. Jill said that

she would email Phil McGhee to find out. It was decided that a letter would go out

from the Interim Parent Council outlining the official position on the Council so

everyone is clear what is involved and that there possible could be sub committees

looking at fundraising so if that is where a parents interest lies they can still get

involved.

Lollipop person on Castlehill Rd – The Parent Council expressed their concern for the

safety of the children at the end of the day especially when the high school comes

out at the same time. As promised Health and Safety were here the first few days

at start of term. We would like the lollipop person from the main street in Overtown

to be moved to Castlehill Rd, Jill explained that this is up to Road Safety and this

depends on how many children cross here a survey has been taken but Jill has not

heard the result yet at the time of the survey ten children have had to have crossed

the road. One thing that might help is there will be an entrance from gowkthrapple

which will cut out the need for children from that side to have to cross the car park

this should be available around about the October week.

HT Report – Jill reported that we have now been open three weeks the children seem

happy and settled which has been our priority. It has been a very exciting and

daunting time as this has been a completely blank canvas. School unpacking went well

and everyone worked very hard in the first four days to get everything ready for the

children. In the first few days the lunch time routine was changed several times until

we were happy with the way it ran. Children’s transition took place and Helen and Jill

will be meeting with the teachers to make sure all the children are supported

correctly. Monitoring has been agreed and staff are doing their forward plans for the

year and a more detailed weekly plan. SMT will be evaluating weekly plans. We do not

have a school development plan as of yet but this is in the pipeline.

The first all school event is the open afternoon next Thursday this is from 2pm-6pm,

the first parents night will be at the start of October. Jill then outlined some of

the things that had been happening, we are using both the assembly hall and gym

for PE and once the outdoor areas have been finished we will have a session outside.

LCSC sensory room was being developed. The P1s had settled in well and have P7

buddies at break time. At the moment we are using the assembly hall for some of

the children at lunchtime but hope to integrate back into the main lunch area. We

went cashless last week, the children who have free meals no longer need tickets

their money is automatically put on their card about 11am and the card then gets

wiped at end of day if not all used. Breakfast club is up and running and going very

well it is in the Assembly hall and is open to all the children. Website up and running

and all classes are blogging, twitter site is also active and Jill is running that. First

newsletter went out last week and Jill is planning to get another one out soon to keep

all parents up to date with what is going on. Home learning letters have gone out Jill

outlined what would come home with the children in future and that a jotter will come

home once a month which will have different types of work in it to show parents what

their children are doing. These jotter are called snapshot jotters and this is what the

SMT will be monitoring so you will be able to see their comments and you can add your

comments if you want to. Every child has been issued with a homework diary into

which any information will be put that we want parents to see and into which you can

put any questions you might have.

Award system is being developed and parents will be informed about this in due course.

There is an assembly each week taken by the SMT so allows teachers some of their

time out for planning. At the moment only the children who can cope are attending

from the LCSC but we are planning to gradually introduce more of the children as time

goes on. The Gospel Hall are continuing to come in as they did in both schools. P5

have started their swimming block.

Jill then went on to outline other things happening within the school – playground

needs developing but fundraising will be needed to do this as she has spent up to

£35,000 already a lot of this has been spent on ICT every teacher has an Ipad.

Each class in LCSC will have 3 each and there will be 4 in each class in mainstream.

New radios have been ordered, school bell changed so that we didn’t hear everytime

it rang for high school.

Then Jill asked everyone if there were any general questions – Heather asked if the

school would be using Parent helpers in the classes. Jill replied that yes we will and

no PVG would be needed if not on own with children.

AOB – Playground equipment was discussed some of the Parent Council were quite

annoyed that the benches from Overtown’s playground were not allowed to be

bought as they were not very old. Jill said that she couldn’t do anything about this

but if the Parent Council wanted to raise this again they could.

P7 have asked if can bring their bikes and a discussion took place to why bike racks

could not have been put in the playground. Jill quite happy for them to bring bikes

just have to be careful where they are left until we are able to get proper bike racks.

The Parent Council would like it minuted that they thanked all the staff for all their

hard work and how well things have gone.

There will be school photos taken at the end of October these will be individual,

family and then each year stage would be taken and this put into a whole school

photo. Parent Council asked who would be doing this. Jill said that it was a company

she used at Chryston called Colour Photo this was well received as thought previous

company Tempest had seen better days.

The official opening of the Clyde Valley Campus would be in October within this there

would be two separate ones for high school and primary.

Next meeting is the AGM 4/10/16.