

Braco School Parent Council

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 2nd October 2018 6:00pm

at Braco Primary School

Attendance: Jo Speed (Chair), Fiona Kerr (Treasurer), Julie Davies (Vice Chair/Fundraising), Dominic Edward (Secretary), Susan Ross (Head), Nick Keiller (Active Schools), Steven Watt (PKC), Jennifer McRae (Muthill Kiddy Club), Emma Sutherland (Muthill Kiddy Club), Adrian Davidson, Claire Janse, Marianne Heron, Sylvia Lauder.

Apologies: Helena Carey, Fiona Chalamanda, Jenny Allardyce.

1. Nick Keiller - Active School's Coordinator, Crieff Cluster

Nick Keiller is the Active Schools coordinator for the Crieff schools cluster; a role that is a part of Sports Scotland. He is hosted by Live Active in Crieff, but works independently of them. His role is to organise extra curricular activity sessions for children in the cluster. All of these sessions are led by volunteers, e.g. parents, teachers, local sports clubs and must be free of charge to all children.

Nick presented an annual report showing the involvement of Braco school children in extra curricular sports activities that he has helped organise. The report suggested a low level of engagement by Braco in the sessions being provided. However, it was fully accepted that this is largely because of the distance between Braco and Crieff. Furthermore, the report excludes any 'paid for' out of school activities that Braco children might be involved in (e.g. swimming lessons) so does not indicate a low level of engagement in physical activity *per se*. The report also excludes physical activity carried out in school time— e.g. PE lessons, the daily mile.

Nevertheless, NK acknowledges that more can still be done and is working to deliver more after school opportunities. He wanted to inform us that he can complete paperwork, provide session plans, conduct risk assessments and provide equipment for volunteers who want to put on sessions. If there are any parents interested in volunteering their time to provide any kind of after school activity Nick would be very happy to help out. The work that Nick does is regularly reported through his social media channels on Twitter (@ActiveSchCrieff) and Facebook (@ActiveSchoolsCrieff).

FK/JS – it may be worth discussing our own use of social media in the future.

Nick also works with local sports clubs that are often well placed to provide volunteers to deliver after school sessions. In particular, he has been working with Braco Bowling Club to see if something might be arranged. One stumbling block has been that the Bowling Club would like some additional adult supervision to help supervise the children. Nick would be very keen to hear from parents interested in volunteering to 'escort' the children so that a session could be arranged. This would be for about an hour after school.

NK informed us that a dance club that will be starting up in Crieff after the October holidays, open to P4, 5 and 6.

2. Steven Watt - PKC: Digital Showcase

SW is part of the team in PKC developing the "My PKC" functionality of their IT systems. This is an online mechanism for residents to be able to communicate with the council. Of interest to parents is that the system can be used to apply for, e.g., free school meals, placing requests, school transport etc.

SW would like to encourage residents to use this system as it not only more convenient but also delivers significant costs efficiencies for the council. Any feedback is welcome.

3. Childcare – Muthill Kiddy Club

Jennifer McRae and Emma Sutherland told us about the new after school childcare provision available at “Muthill Kiddy Club”. This club is now up and running and they are happy to be extending the service to Braco children. A pick up service is currently operated from Braco on a Tuesday and Wednesday – this is subject to change depending on demand so please contact them if this is a service that might benefit you.

The cost is £12 per session (3-6pm), which includes transport to Muthill. Children then need to be collected from Muthill at the end of the session. They can accept childcare vouchers. Children can be taken from age 3 – though numbers are limited or this age group. Whilst block bookings are preferred; ad hoc bookings can be taken though space can't be guaranteed at busy times.

FK/JS have been using the service and would recommend it to other parents.

For full details visit: <http://www.muthillkiddyclub.co.uk>

4. Headteacher Report

A new principal teacher has now been chosen. The applicant is from outwith PKC however, and needs to give 8 weeks notice. As final checks need to be made before the offer can be confirmed – it is unlikely he/she will be in post until at least mid-December. Miss Perry will be staying on until the new PT is in post. SR is very pleased with the appointment; a person she believes will be an excellent fit for the school.

Mrs Simpson will be returning to nursery after the October Break and Mr MacKenzie from Dundee University will also continue after October. SR was pleased to report that Miss Milne has secured a job with Stirling Council as a Pupil Support Assistant.

SR is still looking for parent volunteers to talk about their careers. Available dates are the 9th/23rd/30th November – all Friday afternoons – from 2pm. This would only last about 45 minutes and is with a small group of 9-10 pupils (not the whole school!) Any parents who would be interested are invited to contact the school. Parent volunteers are also needed to help support the delivery of Forest Schools.

P5 ‘peer mediators’ are excited to be taking up their role in resolving small arguments after the October holidays.

Mark Neil remains Quality Improvement Officer as a new QIO is still to be appointed. He is due to visit the school on 4th October.

Sharon Johnston (Head of Education, Primary and Early Years at PKC) visited the school on 26th Sept and remarked on how the school was such a calm and happy place of learning.

“Closing the Gap” visited Nursery on 18th September. Excellent feedback was received (the only exception being that the children had too many books to choose from!). Well done to Mrs Fridge and Miss Carey for their hard work and dedication.

Peter Hamilton from Education Scotland will be visiting the school on 23rd October to hold focus groups discussing the closure of Greenloaning Primary. There will be pupil, parent (2:20pm) and staff sessions. If any parents are interested in attending please contact the school.

Another focus group will discuss the extension of nursery entitlement to 1400 hours by 2020. This is being held on 24th October at 3:20pm in the nursery. Again, please contact the school if you would be interested in attending. It is anticipated that nursery hours in Braco would still not extend beyond 9-3, but additional staff will be provided to meet additional demand.

Upcoming school trips/events:

- P1/2 trip to Loch Leven is not yet booked because of some additional costs.
- P3/4 trip to Perth museum has been booked.
- P5/6/7 trip to Sky Academy is also not yet booked as it sold out in 3 minutes, will try again in January.
- CSI Forensic Science Workshop: Booked for 7th November
- Whole school visit from NSPCC is on 30th October
- P5/6/7 will be visited by the Black Watch on 9th November.
- Whole school panto trip is on 6th December.

ZooLab came to the school at the end of September. This received super feedback from children. We are very grateful to SL for help in securing a discount.

The school continues to work with Sustrans – so there are lots of events and activities coming up this year. Bike-Ability training will start for P1/2 after October, for P5/6/7 when the new PT is in post and for P3/4 probably in the Spring term. There will also be a visit from Dr Bike and a Bike Breakfast after the October holidays.

There has been a very productive meeting involving PKC Property, PKC Education, the community council and the school to discuss renovations to the village hall. A final decision is awaited on what will be done and when. [Some additional details can be found in the Community Council minutes of September 2018.]

Details of celebrations to mark the centenary of the end of WW1 can be found on Facebook. There will be many activities for the children to take part in on 11th Nov and some of their work will be on display.

Vision, Values and Aims have now been updated. A draft will soon be circulated to parents.

5. Fundraising

We are very pleased to report that the Bingo Tea raised £863.50. We are especially grateful to the Enterprise Skills Group, led by Mrs Fridge, which contributed £381 to the total!

Christmas fundraising – HC has offered to to run lantern making craft sessions so that we might repeat the very successful lantern parade we had last year. A date of Saturday the 8th December was proposed for this - to be confirmed.

There is a WhatsApp group for any parents who want to get involved with organising parent council fundraisers. If you are interested in hearing what is going on please contact JD or any other member of the committee to be added.

6. Committee Chair

DE reported that there had been no interest in the vacant Chair position on the committee. JS said that she would be willing to stand for another year. JS was nominated as chair by MH and this was seconded by FK. We are pleased to reappoint JS as Chair for the coming year.

7. AOCB

JS noted that the consultation period on the closure of Greenloaning School runs until the 5th October, so any comments need to be submitted by this weekend.