

Braco School Parent Council

Minutes

Monday 10 February 2020 6.30pm

At Braco Primary School

Attendance: Becca MacRae (Chair), Fiona Kerr (Treasurer), Rachel Beaton (Secretary), Susan Ross (Acting Head Teacher), Dominic Edwards, Helena Carey, Jenni Allardyce, Carla Geddes

Apologies – Sylvia Lauder (Fundraising Coordinator)

1. Head teacher report

Inspection

Mrs Ross confirmed that there had been a successful public meeting to discuss the inspection report and that positive feedback had been received. Mrs Ross confirmed that the next step was for the Acting Head Teacher to present to the Life Long Learning Committee on 23 March 2020 a recording of this meeting will be available on Youtube.

Staffing Update 2019/2020

Mrs Ross confirmed that the recruitment process for a substantive head teacher was underway. Head Teacher interviews stage 1 will take place on 27 February 2020. Stage 2 of the interview process will take place 9 March 2020. (*Parent Council has since been notified that the date of Stage 2 has been moved to 13 March 2020*).

Refurbishment

Mrs Ross confirmed that there has been no further news on the decampment to Greenloaning. Currently PKC plan to begin the work in October 2020.

Excursions/Visitors 2019/2020

P5/6/7 will be visiting Our Dynamic Earth: Natural Disasters. Partial funding for this trip is from Enterprise Group funds.

P1/2 will be visiting Deep Sea World

P3/4 do not currently have a trip booked. Their class topic is homes/buildings. A member of Parent Council suggested that Rob Roy Homes might be a suitable option.

School Photographs

Kerry Tuffee is booked to attend the school in May 2020.

2. Parent Council Updates on: Decampment and Staffing

Since the November Parent Council meeting the Chair contacted the Quality Improvement Officer to request updates on the following:

Firstly is the Headship position. As you explained previously the authority has now taken the decision to advertise the Headship as a permanent post. As I reported back, many parents felt this was not the course of action that had previously been presented to them. After feeding back the information from

yourself the parents concerned still feel that Susan did gain this post on her own merit through the external recruitment process she was part of. This aside, we would appreciate more information relating to timescales and how the recruitment process for the permanent headship will be taken forward.

Secondly, in relation to this is obviously the decant and refurbishment of Braco Primary. It is unsettling for parents to foresee the potential for 3 staffing changes in what is a relatively small school but also for this to come at the same time as the upheaval of decanting to another school site. We have been made aware that the decant has been moved back to October at the earliest which means children moving mid way through an academic year. We have yet to see any plans nor have we been asked for any input into the planning process, a consultation parents are very keen to be part of. Without any sense of what these changes to the school will consist of it is difficult to ascertain timescales for when the work will be completed or in fact the time we will have to prepare our children and involve them in the process.

Thirdly, as a result of the delayed decant, parents, specifically those within the nursery, are wanting more information about the plans for the nursery expansion and how this will be carried forward in the nursery as it currently stands. It is my understanding from our previous Parent Council meeting that the authority plan the increase capacity within the nursery to 16 children. With the delay in moving across to Greenloaning I am struggling to see how this can be achieved in the current nursery setting. I would also expect that there would also need to be an increase in staffing which would contribute to the space difficulties. I personally believe the experiences created for/by and with our children within the current nursery are exceptional and therefore would appreciate information about how the authority will be supporting Braco Primary to ensure this is maintained during these changes.

Parent Council received the following update from the Quality Improvement Officer:

Head Teacher position

I am pleased to hear that the parents of Braco Primary are happy with the recent inspection report and that members of your parent forum would be happy to have Mrs Ross take up the permanent vacancy following her period as interim Head Teacher. However, now that this post is a permanent Head Teacher vacancy it is necessary to follow our policy and guidance on recruitment which will ensure that the best possible candidate is identified to lead your school. I have had a conversation with Mrs Ross regarding the upcoming interview process and she welcomes this a positive opportunity for her to demonstrate her personal and professional skills and abilities to undertake the permanent Head Teacher post. I hope the parents of Braco Primary will appreciate the reassurance this robust recruitment process will give which is in line with all other Head Teacher vacancies across Perth and Kinross in seeking the best candidate for your school.

The job advert closes on Friday 7 February 2020 and the letting process will take place the following week. The stage 1 interview is scheduled for week beginning 24 February 2020 with the Stage 2 interview is scheduled for Monday 9 March 2020.

Decant and refurbishment of Braco Primary

Unfortunately, I have no further information to share with you regarding the future decant of Braco Primary School. There is a meeting planned to discuss the project on 12 February 2020 and the Parent Council will be contacted following this to ensure you have the information you require.

Nursery provision

The plan for Braco Nursery is to increase the current capacity/registration from 8 to 16. The Care Inspectorate visited the school on 24 January with a view to progressing the registration variation. Following on from this visit, Local Authority Officers are working across departments and with the Care Inspectorate to progress recommendations that will ensure the variation is granted. I would like to take this opportunity to reassure the parent forum that 1140 hours will be available from August 2020.

The Parent Council discussed the interview process for the permanent Head teacher. PKC have requested one representative from Parent Council. It was discussed that the Head teacher Appointment Process (2016) indicates that two Parent Council representatives ought to be part of the appointment process. It was agreed that Dominic Edwards and Becca MacRae would be put forward to be members of the interview panel.

The Parent Council discussed the provision of nursery places at Braco. The Care Inspectorate carried out an inspection in January 2020 and measured that the available floor space at Braco could take up to 18 children. Mrs Ross reassured the Parent Council that should Braco nursery get applications for 14-16 children that there would be greater use made of the outdoor space creating a flow through nursery. It was noted that there would be potential toilet issues as the nursery only has one toilet. Mrs Ross highlighted that there are toilets in the school that could be used. An extra member of staff would be appointed to Braco nursery for the increased numbers.

Mrs Ross highlighted that if Braco nursery were unable to accommodate the number of children that had applied places would be offered in Auchterarder nurseries. Allocating of nursery places is now administered centrally by PKC rather than at the school.

3. Fundraising

Parent Council suggested creating a Fundraising Calendar – in an attempt to timetable events throughout the year. The below suggestions were provided.

Jan		Feb		Mar	
Apr	Daffodil tea/Spring Fayre	May	Games Night	Jun	Fun run
Jul		Aug		Sep	
Oct	Games Night	Nov		Dec	Christmas

It was suggested that Mr Carter could assist with organising a 5k fun-run.

4. Drinking water at school

Parent Council discussed issues that had been highlighted about children not drinking sufficiently at school and arising health concerns. There was a suggestion to implement stop and drink breaks. Mrs Ross agreed to ask class teachers to remind children to drink and remind them that they are able to access their water bottles and refill them during the day.

5. Auchterarder Parents Supporting Parents Group

Parent Council were informed of the Auchterarder Parents Supporting Parents Facebook group. The Group offers support and workshops on topics such as dyslexia, digital media and anxiety. The Group is available to all parents.

6. AOCB

Parent Council discussed the return of the achievement diaries. Parents expressed concerns regarding the types of activities that should be recorded. Mrs Ross reassured parents that the achievement diaries were to identify potential activities in school or extra curriculum activities