

## **Braco School Parent Council**

### **Minutes**

**Monday 27 April 2020 6.30pm**

#### **Via Zoom**

Attendance: Rebecca MacRae (Chair), Rachel Beaton (Secretary), Susan Ross (Head Teacher), Jo Speed, Adrian Davidson, Dee Campbell; Helena Carey

Apologies: Fiona Kerr (Treasurer), Sylvia Lauder (Fundraising Coordinator)

#### **1. School Estate Transformation**

Carol Taylor (Service Manager, Resource Management) and Brian Reid (Assistant Project Manager) were unable to attend the meeting and sent a written update that was read to the Parent Council.

*Investigation and design works have been ongoing for the upgrade of Braco Primary School. This is a lengthy and challenging process as we seek to deliver the best solution within the limitations of the existing building. Once we have an outline design, we will hold a User Reference Group for the project. The User Reference Group (URG) will include staff, parents, Community Council and Local Elected Members. The URG is likely to take a different format and we are currently trialling our first virtual URG.*

*In tandem with this, another project is being developed that will utilise the former Greenloaning Primary School as the decant facility. This will involve temporary units being installed at Greenloaning Primary School and the school building being recommissioned.*

*We anticipated that the decant facility would be installed during the 2020 summer holidays. This is no longer possible and due to COVID-19 we are currently unable to establish a date at this stage. With regard to the Braco Village Hall, work is continuing to acquire the land to undertake the improvement works for additional storage.*

*Once we understand the impact of COVID-19 on the Braco Primary School project, representatives from Perth and Kinross Council will arrange to attend a future Parent Council meeting.*

*We understand this will be disappointing for the Braco Primary School community, however, I am sure you will appreciate the situation we are all in.*

The Parent Council discussed their disappointment that there does not appear to be a plan for the school estate transformation. It was acknowledged that the situation with coronavirus is likely to delay the work on Braco Primary even further as it will not be possible for ongoing projects to be completed during this period. The Head Teacher noted that the school in Greenloaning would need substantial work to make it fit for purpose. It was agreed that Becca MacRae would contact Carol Taylor for further information.

#### **2. Head Teacher Report**

The Parent Council congratulated Mrs Ross on her appointment to the substantive post as Head Teacher of Braco Primary School.

Mrs Ross expressed her thanks to the parents of Braco Primary School for their notes of thanks and acknowledged the hard work that was being undertaken by all of the school staff. The Parent Council echoed this thanks and appreciation and dedication of the staff.

### *Staffing*

Mrs Ross confirmed that it is expected that the staffing allocation to Braco School would be finalised that week (27 April 2020).

It was confirmed that the Primary Teacher post would be advertised as a permanent post from 8 May 2020 for two weeks. Therefore it is expected that the School will have a permanent PT from August 2020. The School have requested a probationary teacher from August 2020, it is expected that they will be notified of who this is in May 2020.

It is currently expected that the school will be split into the following class patterns:

P1,2,3 class with Mrs Champion, P4/5 with the Principal Teacher, P6/7 with the new Probationer. It was noted that the P1,2,3 class would need to move classrooms as the current P1/2 classroom is too small.

### *Nursery*

Braco nursery has been allocated 10 full time places. All places are taken and a ballot took place in March witnessed by the Head Teacher, Mrs Fridge and a Parent. All parent who applied for places have been notified and accepted or rejected their places. There is currently a waiting list for the nursery. It is expected that the Braco Staffing list will allocate 2 ECPs to Braco.

### *Reporting*

All children will receive a digital report card in some format.

### *School events*

Staff are currently investigating how to host school events online, including potentially hosting a virtual sports day. It is also expected that the end of term and school year will be marked in some sort of celebration. Mrs Ross reported that the School staff are very conscious of class transitions and newcomers into the School. The staff are currently working on matching buddies with new pupils to ease their transition.

Mrs Ross noted that the coronavirus situation was causing a great deal of uncertainty and the staff were meeting regularly to determine ways in which to support pupils during this period of lockdown but importantly beyond when there may be some access to schools reinstated.

## **3. Fundraising**

It was noted that there was currently no fundraising activities being undertaken.

The Parent Council discussed the Community Investment Fund award of £3,000 due to the application submitted by Ms Carey. The award will be used to fund a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) club as well as a community event such as a family learning workshop. Ms Carey highlighted the importance that the award is spent for a community event outwith the school day.

It was agreed that Adrian Davidson, Ms Carey and Ms Digance would meet to discuss potential options and how these could be communicated to the children, and their opinions gathered. Ms Carey agreed to contact the Community Investment Fund to confirm whether the money that could be used differently due to social distancing.

## **4. AOCB**

The Parent Council offered support to both the School and fellow parents for resources if required.