

## **Braco School Parent Council**

### **Minutes**

**Monday 15 June 2020 6.30pm**

#### **Via Teams**

Attendance: Rebecca MacRae (Chair), Rachel Beaton (Secretary), Susan Ross (Head Teacher), Jo Speed, Clare Robinson, Adrian and Becky Davidson, Rachael Lamb, Sarah Dove, Helena Carey, Jenni Allardyce, Fiona Kerr, Clare Janse

Apologies: Sylvia Lauder (Fundraising Coordinator)

#### **1. Head Teacher Report**

Mrs Ross expressed her thanks to the parents of Braco Primary School.

Mrs Ross detailed the plans that were in place at the time for attendance at school. Including an attendance pattern of children either attending Mon & Tues or Thu and Fri. Plans have changed since the meeting as a result of announcements by Scottish Government. The School app should be used for the latest information.

Mrs Champion will teach P1, 2, and 3 with support from Ms Lamb in the previous P3/4 classroom.

Principal Teacher will teach P4 & P5 in the P1/2 classroom and will be supported by Mrs LeCornu.

Mr Morrison, supported by Mrs Gilles will teach P6 & 7

Mrs Ross reported that there had been 17 applicants for the primary teacher post and that interviews were scheduled to take place Tuesday 16 June 2020. Since the Parent Council meeting it was announced to the School that Mr Torrens had been the successful candidate.

Mrs Ross reported that Ms Carey had been appointed at Braco's additional Early Care Practitioner – the Parent Council expressed their congratulations. It was also reported that the school had been offered a new play assistant and during the summer it was reported that this would be Ms Ward.

A number of changes were announced by Scottish Government in the weeks following the Parent Council meeting. Plans that had been put in place were subsequently changed and have been reported to parents through the School App.

Points that were discussed included: Changes to the curriculum and a focus on health and wellbeing as first and foremost. The inclusion of as much outdoor learning as possible, noting that Braco is very fortunate in being already set up for outdoor learning. There would be increased ways of learning through art and music.

It was reported that Tayside Contracts would offer a cold bagged lunch or packed lunches can be brought from home. Meals would be eaten in the learning environment rather than the Village Hall.

Mrs Ross reported that those transitioning into and out of the school were being supported. With new students being allowed into the school to familiarise them with the environment.

Mrs Ross reported that report cards would be circulated before the end of term.

Mrs Ross answered a number of questions from Parents. Topics included:

Hub provision, PKC have yet to set out guidance. No definitive detail about what care will look like? Hubs will stop come Aug. Uniform; Braco Primary School children are asked to wear their school uniform to school.

Children will have break time in playground. Will try and keep the children in the class groups. Will attempt to keep distance between children.

Where advised teachers may be wearing masks.

At the time of the meeting it was not clear whether visiting teachers would be allowed to attend the school.

## **2. School Estate Transformation**

Chair emailed Carol Taylor from Perth and Kinross Council. At the time of the meeting there was no update regarding the school transformation. Since the meeting Parent Council have been provided with the following information that was circulated via the School App.

The current update on the Braco Primary School project, as at 24 July 2020, is as follows –

- Detailed design development for the refurbishment and extension to Braco Primary School was completed in November 2019. This detailed work highlighted several limitations with the existing building. This coupled with new technical and building standards resulted in costs which were significantly higher than anticipated by the earlier feasibility study.
- As a result, it was agreed that additional design work should be undertaken to ascertain whether a new build school on the same site could provide a better value for money solution.
- A school decant is planned with staff and pupils being accommodated at Greenloaning Primary School for the duration of the project. Two temporary classrooms will be installed, and works will also take place in the main building. Planning for these works is well advanced, and it was planned to complete the works at Greenloaning by October 2020. The children would not have moved at this time. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus pandemic this work has been delayed.
- Prior to the coronavirus pandemic we had anticipated that we were still 18 months away from starting on site, assuming the new build option was approved. The refurbishment option would begin sooner as more design work has taken place. The build is anticipated to take 12 to 15 months for either option.
- Whilst unfortunately we are unable to provide timescales currently, the following are the stages that this project still must go through prior to construction commencing:
  - Complete concept design for new build option;
  - Obtain approval from ECS Senior Management Team to progress with detailed design of new build option or to continue with refurbishment and extension option
  - Detailed design of new build option if approved;
  - Hold User Reference Group (URG). It is anticipated that the URG process will be followed as normal, albeit with possible changes related to coronavirus pandemic restrictions;
  - Finalise design;
  - Engage construction company; and

- Decant to Greenloaning Primary School

The Parent Council discussed whether a shelter should be erected in the Forest School area. It was agreed that as a first step Mr Davidson would approach the landowner for permission.

There was no update on the progress of the multi use games area (MUGA) – behind the hall.

### **3. AOCB**

The Parent Council noted that efforts were being made to celebrate the achievements of the school leavers.

The Chair of the Parent Council asked Mrs Ross to leave the meeting. The Parent Council discussed different options for gifts for the teachers.