

Braco School Parent Council

Meeting Minutes

Monday 30 November 2020 6.30pm

Via Teams

Attendance: Councillor Tom Gray, Susan Ross (Head Teacher), Adrian and Becky Davidson, Carol Taylor (Perth and Kinross Council), Dee Campbell, Rhiannon Howie-Davies, Rhona Nuttall, Fiona Kerr, Jenni Allardyce (Treasurer), Brian Reid (Perth and Kinross Council), Clare Robinson, Rachel Beaton (Secretary), Becca MacRae (Chair), Sylvia Lauder (Fundraising Coordinator), Helena Carey

1. School Estate Transformation

The Parent Council received an update on the School Estate Transformation from Carol Taylor, Service Manager, ECS Resource Management and Brian Reid, Capital Projects Team Leader.

Ms Taylor acknowledged that a significant amount of time had been lost due to the pandemic and that the whole capital programme was being reviewed by the Council. All internally resourced projects stopped in March 2020 when staff were deployed to support efforts to combat the pandemic.

Mr Reid explained that a number of options had been explored for the estate transformation. During the lifetime of the project changes have occurred in the Scottish Government requirements for climate change targets. These targets lend themselves to new build options. Due to escalating costs and the increased Scottish Government standards the project team are looking towards a new build rather than a replacement option – these were initially proposed in Nov 2019 – and the project team are seeking the necessary permissions to proceed with these options.

Mr Reid explained that the current timeline existed - ECS Programme Board meeting in Jan would explore three options to be taken to the Delivery board later in Jan 2021. Once the three options were approved by the Delivery Board these will be reviewed by ECS Strategic Investment Board in February to decide the best option.

Mr Reid and Ms Taylor confirmed that the Braco School development was a priority project – further details of timescales could not be given as the timeline would depend on the option selected. It was mentioned that while a refurbishment of the existing property would probably be slightly quicker it was felt unlikely that this would be the chosen option.

Rough estimates were provided of 12-15 months for the full design to be developed and the contract to be awarded. It was estimated that a further 12-15 months would be required for the build element of the project. Suggesting a completion date of May 2023

The decampment to Greenloaning is being treated as a separate project which is being worked on alongside the design work at Braco. Mr Reid confirmed that design work for the internal work at Greenloaning had been completed, although some changes need to be made. Work was underway to move the outdoor classroom cabin from Errol to Greenloaning. Mr Reid confirmed that separate support would be provided for the decampment and that the team are very experienced in the activities. Mr Reid confirmed that work to make Greenloaning School ready would start as soon as possible.

The Parent Council discussed the formation of a User Reference Group (URG) which would be set up this is likely to consist of representatives from: Parent council, teacher reps, and local community members.

It was discussed that the contractors that were awarded the contract would need to meet considerate contractor requirements to minimise disruption and liaise with the local community.

Mr Reid confirmed that given the space available staff/visitor parking were unlikely to be considered within the Braco design.

Brian will send presentation slides on what a Passive House is.

2. Head Teacher Report

Mrs Ross provided Parent Council with her report and started by expressing her thanks to all parents for their support.

Mrs Champion would be making a phased return to Braco following the Christmas break. There would be a gradual handover between Ms Ginestri and Mrs Champion.

Hot meals were available for all children. P1-5 would be having hot meals in the hall.

As there would be no Christmas concert in the 12 school days leading up to the end of school. Entertainment from each of the classes would be uploaded to Seesaw for everyone to watch.

At the time of the meeting there was speculation as to whether schools would close earlier than planned. At that time nothing had been announced by Scottish Government or at Council level. Mrs Ross promised to update parents as soon as possible.

Parent Council and the Head Teacher agreed that exchanges of Christmas cards/gifts should not take place at school or in the school playground to lower the risk of transmission. It was agreed that Christmas messages could be shared on Seesaw.

Mrs Ross answered questions regarding the temperature in the classrooms – following government guidelines windows in the school were opened at least 15% of the time. Mrs Ross requested that all children be dressed appropriately and agreed that extra layers could be brought and left of pegs for children. While there were efforts to reduce the amount that comes into school on a daily basis warmth and dry clothes were considered essentials..

Provision of PE was discussed. At that time Mrs Ross was waiting to hear from the Council as to whether the Hall could be used for PE.

3. Fundraising/Christmas Raffles

A summary of Parent Council finances were provided.

Parent Council have paid for virtual panto and Halloween parties. The lockdown photobooks had been ordered and a small amount of money had been generated to support Parent Council activities.

Ardoch in bloom had donated bulbs and pots for each child and the Church groups were providing knitted gifts.

Extensive discussion was had regarding the annual hampers and ways in which the process could be facilitated safely. It was suggested that an online raffle could be held with a query whether that would be viewed as encouraging online gambling. It was agreed that terms and conditions would be checked before activities were put forward.

4. Homework format

Those present expressed satisfaction with the format for homework.

5. Online Parent Contact

Those present expressed their enjoyment of the online parent contact and the opportunity to receive an update on their child's progress. It was acknowledged that there were some technical difficulties but noted that all teachers were very flexible and accommodating.

6. AOCB

There was no other business for discussion