**Braco Parent Council AGM**

**5th September 2024**

Attendees: Becca Macrae (Chair), Gillian Nixon (Secretary), Craig Torrens (Acting Head), Amelia Conway, Samantha Nicol, Jill Johnson, Rachel Beaton, Julie Foley

Apologies- Adrain Davidson (Treasurer) Rhona Nuttal, Dee Campbell

BM opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

**Chairs Annual Update**

**Fundraising**

Combined Santa Dash and Christmas Fair proved to be a great source of fun and fundraising. This will hopefully continue to be an annual event for the community.

Nativity Raffle and Tea Towels – Huge thanks goes out to all who donated and once again the fantastic skills of Sylvia Lauder for creating the wonderful hampers. Also the children’s art skills in creating the tea towels.

School Uniforms – Thanks to Logo Embroidery Scotland we have continued to receive.

**School Estates Transformation**

This has continued to be an ongoing point for updates throughout this last year with very little progress seeming to be made. PKC have however listened to our concerns regarding our current school building and steps have been made to provide new furniture and blinds for this academic year.

**The Parent Council Role**

This year we have sought to continue to be a voice for our families, we have taken forward concerns and questions to both school management and within PKC. The school have worked closely with us, providing open evenings for internet safety and most recently the sharing of the new Learning Journals platform. We have sought to liaise with Pupil Council

around matters concerning them and planning together how funds can be utilised.

Held an after school session to share information and provide different opportunities to gather parent’s voice.

Using the **STEM money**, the Parent Council purchased wildlife cameras that can be used within the school and then loaned out to families and the wider community. Most recently school approach us the discuss plans about consulting children around renovating the garden area and working with Ardoch in Bloom to create some horticulture wonders!

**Community Involvement** – Continued to be part of discussions around the community action plan. Linking with community events to signpost families e.g. Remembrance Service and share knowledge/resources e.g. community bingo evening.

**Head Teacher’s Report**

**Return to Braco**

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere thanks to the children, staff, families, and the community for welcoming me back to Braco Primary school so warmly. We have had a verypositive start to the term, and it has been lovely to re-engage with the children and catch up

on all their news.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Ross for the preparatory work that she completed before the summer holidays. This has ensured continuity for our learners .Mrs Ross and I were able to have a handover of information, and again this has been verbal beneficial for updating me on school business and our school improvement priorities.

**Staffing Updates**

Before the summer holidays, Mrs Johnston successfully applied for the Pupil Support

Assistant role previously held by Mrs Gillies. This means that her working hours at Braco Primary School have been increased. Mrs Gillies retired after working at Braco Primary School for 27 years and I would like to express my thanks to her. While she will be missed by the school community, it is wonderful that she will be able to spend more time with her grandchildren and enjoy her many hobbies. I’m sure Mrs Gillies will remain a familiar face at school events and performances.

Mrs Johnston’s previous role as a Pupil Support Assistant is in the process of being

advertised. Until this is filled, Mrs Smith has agreed to take on additional hours as a Pupil Support Assistant. I am very grateful to Mrs Smith for taking on this role because she is well- known to the children, and this has ensured continuity until the job is filled permanently.

We currently have a vacancy for our Play Assistant role within the Nursery School. We are fortunate that this role is currently being filled by experienced staff on a supply basis. The permanent job will also be advertised shortly.

Our nursery held a Stay and Play Session earlier today (Thursday 5 th ), which provided families with an opportunity to meet the nursery team including our Early Years Support Teacher.

**Learning Journals**

It was great to see parents at our School Open Evening, where we gave an overview of Learning Journals. Hopefully parents found the session useful, and they are feeling more confident about the school’s use of Learning Journals.

It is important to note here that it will take time for learners, staff and families to familiarise themselves with Learning Journals. There will be opportunities later in the year for all key stakeholders to feedback on its use.

All parents who have signed the permission letters should now have been sent through their log-in details. I would ask that any parents who are still waiting to be connected to their child’s account to contact the school office as soon as possible.

**After School Clubs**

Following previous discussions regarding after-school clubs, and spreading these throughout the school year, this term, we are offering Bowls Club (Tuesdays) with myself, and Gardening Club (Thursdays) with Miss Carey and Ardoch in Bloom. Parents are more than welcome to assist at either club. Any interested parents should contact the School Office.

**Finance/Fundraising**

£2,100 (approximation after recent deductions).

23/24: finances on app/website soon, once they have reconciled.

In previous years the Parent Council have supported the school by paying the transport costs for our pantomime trip and class learning trips. Can the Parent Council confirm whether they intend to do the same this year?

The school would like to continue supporting the Parent Council with fundraising events.

**ADT**

Thank you to the Ardoch Development Trust for their continued support of the school.

I had meeting with Bridie Grant, Development Officer for the ADT, and we discussed

opportunities which the ADT may be able to support the school with this session.

**School photographs**

Before the summer holidays, there were discussions regarding Holeyn Photography taking photographs of the children this term. Is there an update regarding this? Would the Parent Council like me to move forward with booking this before the October Holidays.

**Quality Improvement Priorities**

Staff had two productive Inservice Days at the start of the term, working towards the

School’s Improvement Priorities for the 2024-25 session. For the coming year, improvement

priorities will be focused on:

* Improving attainment in Numeracy,
* Implementing a Nurturing Schools approach and
* Developing Inclusive Practices.

Nursery improvement priorities will centre upon:

* Promoting early numeracy skills, with a focus on digital technology,
* Continuing to develop outdoor learning spaces, to maximise learning opportunities,

and

* Embedding our Nurturing Schools approaches.

**Term Dates**

-Forest School dates for the term have been shared on the School App with Parents.

-NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe workshops for P3, P6 &amp; P7 on 25th September

School App for comms- learning journals (bill paid from April) Suggested we have discount- once established that learning journals is sufficient.

**Office Bearers**

All current office bearers confirmed resignation from posts and that they were not standing for posts over the next reporting year.

The following office bearer posts were confirmed via the elected/seconded process.

**Secretary- Julie Foley**

**Treasurer- Jill Johnston**

Whilst no Chair was elected, it was discussed and confirmed that the Parent Council would continue without a Chair in post and attendees could consider taking turns to Chair meetings.

Thanks were expressed to all previous Committee Members with particular thanks extended to Becca for all her work as Chair over the previous years.

**AOB**

GN asked for confirmation on whether the school being nut free meant that products that may contain traces were also unsuitable. CT confirmed that products that may contain traces of nuts were considered okay.