



Parent Council Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 02ND September 2020, 6.30pm, meeting held as a Zoom call.

Attendance

Susanne Sandilands – Head Teacher, Robert Bamford – Deputy Head Teacher, Liz O'Neil – Principal Teacher and parents.

Meeting chaired by Deborah Christie and record of meeting taken by Loraine Boyd

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies – Cllr Walter Brogan

2. Head Teacher Report

A summary of key recent activity and ongoing matters was provide by Susanne Sandilands. A copy of the report is appended to this minute.

3. Councillors' Report

Councillor Katie Loudon advised that continued efforts are being made to review catchment of schools including East Cambuslang primary schools and high school provision.

On-going concern around number of children at school versus staffing levels.

An updated was provided that consultations continue to form an agile strategy which would be taken forward to ensure the pandemic was managed effectively central whilst taking local arrangements into consideration.

Regular updates sent by committee to councils/schools etc.

4. COVID19 Communications

During discussion the following points were discussed;

- The school remained under directive of South Lanarkshire Council and implementing all strategy and safety measures as directed.
- Some parents reported that their children had reported they are sitting in the same seat all day, apart from at lunch time and parents raised concerns that children are too stationary and not able to socialise. SS confirmed that children are not expected to sit still during wet playtimes and can mingle on the perimeters of the classroom and carpet area. SS undertook to communicate the rules to teachers again to ensure a clear understanding and consistent application of restriction.

- Children unable to speak to close friends placed in a different social bubble at break times etc. and have been cautioned for being too near coned borders.
- It was confirmed that in the event of a positive COVID19 test within the school community, the NHS Track and trace should kick in and this is how contact would be made with parents/career. It was confirmed that there would be no communication from the school in relation to any suspected outbreaks at other schools.

5. General Illness Policy and Procedures

- Clarity was sought around children attending school with cold/like symptoms and it was suggested that NHS Scotland would be good resource for parents/carers as this provided the most up to date Government advice and instructions.

6. Homework

- The group discussed whether the current appetite was for home work to continue. It was noted there was a split opinion and it was suggested that options to provide a suitable opportunity for parents/career to feed their views on homework into the debate should be explored.
- Mr Bamford reminded the meeting that homework was not compulsory and, at any point, should any parent/carer which to opt their children out of homework this would be facilitated.

7. School Gate

- It was noted that some parents are standing outside the school gate with dogs and this was causing some issues. SS agreed to attend and assess if there was any action required.

8. MUGA

- SS updated the group that she had been alerted to an issue that some young people (not pupils of Hallside) were using the MUGA outside of school hours and this was causing concern given the possible safety implications. The way the children were accessing the MUGA was causing concern.

9. Road Safety

- The group noted that work continued in respect of the SLC parking review of provision at Newton Station and an update would be available in due course. It was noted this was of less significant given the depleted number of commuters at present.
- Discussion took place regarding the positioning of the school crossing on Station Road and it was agreed that a trial period of moving the location

to a more central location would be considered. Feedback will be sought and considered at a future meeting of the Parent Council.

- It was confirmed that contact had been made with greenbelt who are responsible for the maintenance of the roundabouts on Hallside Boulevard. It was confirmed that the company would inspect the condition of the shrubs and if it was deemed necessary, that would be trimmed back.

Date/Time of next meeting – 07 October 2020.

End.

Head Teacher Report Wednesday 2nd September 2020

Return to Our School Building

We are delighted to welcome our children back into our school building this session. It is wonderful to hear the sounds of learning, play and laughter. Our children have demonstrated remarkable resilience and we are so proud of them. The staff team have worked incredibly hard to prepare for a safe return to the building and the team have asked me to thank our parent council and wider parent forum for your support, it is very much appreciated.

Session 2020-2021

Our school roll is currently 259. We configured to 10 classes across the school. We welcomed 39 new Primary 1 children who have settled very well into the routines of school life.

Uniform

A huge thank you to our school community for embracing the result of the uniform vote and change from a mixture of white and sky blue to sky blue. Mindful of cost implications of this we shared the message "If you are buying new remember navy and sky blue." All the children looked fabulous in their uniform returning to school.

Staffing

Our staffing entitlement for this session is 13.0. As you know from the last meeting we have a surplus member of teaching staff and are currently working at 14.0. We were delighted that Tony McDaid (our executive director of education) agreed to us retaining our full staffing from last session. This has provided the school with a much needed period of stability. Mrs O'Neill, our PT, is non-class committed and is providing additionality to support the wellbeing and learning needs of pupils and also supporting, covering staff absence.

Recovery Planning

Our recovery planning is based on Government Guidance

Coronavirus (Covid-19): Guidance on preparing for the start of the new school term in August 2020.

SLC Mainstream Schools Recovery Guidance

The wellbeing of our school community is central to these plans and all decisions taken.

Our Improvement Plan Priorities are:

Improvement Priority 1: Promote the positive health and wellbeing of children & young people, parents/carers and staff

Improvement Priority 2: Planning for Equity

Improvement Priority 3: Continuity of Learning

Practical steps we have taken in relation to the context of our school to ensure a safe return to the building.

- Sanitising stations (All classes without sinks have had sanitising stations installed) Stations also installed at entry and exit points.
- Staggered Start and Finish Times
(Due to the fact that we have a large school campus with capacity for approx. 480 children – we decided that we do not need to stagger start and finish times but instead have utilised additional entry and exit points.
- The soft start for all P1 and P2 children is working really well. P1 and P2 children can enter the infant door any time between 8.50am and 9.00am. This has supported social distancing of adults in the playground.
- Inclement Weather Conditions before 9.00am
Unfortunately we are not in a position currently to facilitate access to the building before 9 for P3-P7 children. Reasons being P7 monitors can no longer supervise classes so that we can safely keep children in their class bubble.
Most staff do not start until 9.00am and some support staff start at 9.15am.
- We regularly review safety procedures. I recently sought clarification on whether class groups had to be outside together during break times. I received clarification on Wednesday 26th August that children should remain in class groups and groups should not be mixing in the playground.
While most children were doing this we had to establish play zones and these were put into place on Thursday 27th August. Due to the

configuration of our school with many composite classes and no non-composite class at the P4 or the P6 stage I knew this may be understandably upsetting for some of our children and I personally went round the classes to explain this change to our children and the reasons for this. They have coped remarkably well with this necessary change.

Budget

No changes to the budget discussed at June meeting.

(£5138.00 core budget and £1710 cfwd Total: £6848.00)

(Pupil Equity Fund £39,121, cfwd of £5836 minus 12469 staffing commitment leaves 32,488 available to spend)

Chaplaincy Team

The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 states that there is a statutory obligation on local authorities to provide religious observance and religious education in schools. Our chaplaincy team consists of Rev Cathcart from Flemington Hallside Church and their Outreach team led by Alison Kennedy. Under the terms of the Education (Scotland) Act, parents /carers have the right to ask for their children to be withdrawn from religious observance and / or religious and moral education. I have advised parents to contact the school office to advise if they wish to withdraw their child.

Gym Hall

The sound issue with the gym hall has now been resolved. Works were undertaken during the summer holiday period and blue and white panels have been installed on the walls. Thank you to our parent forum for their patience and support in resolving this. I have also sent an email of thanks on behalf of the school community to Fiona Roach and Lynn Sherry at HQ for their assistance in resolving this.

End of HT Report