



Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 04th November 2020

Held via Zoom call

### **1. Welcome, Apologies Previous Minute and Opening Remarks**

Mrs Sandilands, Mrs O'Neil, Mr Bamford, Councillor Katy Loudon, South Lanarkshire; Councillor Alistair Fulton, South Lanarkshire.

11 parents

Apologies: Councillor Brogan

Mrs Deborah Christie (Chair) started the meeting by welcoming all present and extending her thanks to Mr McCallum for chairing the previous meeting.

The previous minutes were accepted as accurate.

### **2. AGM – Annual Summary of Parent Council Business**

The Annual Report was circulated with the minutes and it will be put on the school website.

### **3. AGM – Appointment of Office Bearers for 2020/21**

- Deborah Christie will continue in role of Chair
- Lynsey Gifford will continue in role as treasurer
- Emma Sharp will take up role of secretary.
- Thanks were given to Mrs McHendry for her several years in role of secretary and it was agreed that we all look forward to her being able to make active and creative contributions to the meetings.

### **4. Head Teacher Report**

- See appended document.

#### *4.1 Discussion during head teachers report*

- **Chrome Books:** The school is due to have a computer refresh and due to the numbers decreasing on school roll they may not receive as many Chrome Books. Some Chrome books have been loaned out or are in use in class rooms etc. It was recognised additional Chrome Books would be useful. There may be some funding in school budget for this. Friends of Hallside had also expressed that they may be able to assist with this. Mrs Sandilands will discuss this further with Friends of Hallside at their virtual meeting. Mrs Gifford will be invited to that in her role as treasurer. Mr Bamford raised issues with procurement of these items and Councillor Loudon will

follow up on this and what other options are available if they cannot be procured through the usual sources there may be more options if Parent Council and/or Friends of Hallside are purchasing them. Mrs Murdoch has also started a scoping exercise to see if any can be funded through charitable organisations and has made a number of enquiries. Councillor Loudon advised that it may be helpful to contact Mrs Clare Haughey, MSP to discuss funding bodies such as the Community Engagement fund and Spice. Mrs Ray fed back that she works in IT procurement and she would advise using the Scottish Government Framework to source them through a different supplier.

- **Google classroom:** There was a query about how much it is used at school, and if there were options to “bring it to life” for children if they were in a position that they were isolating. This led to further discussion about live lessons (in head teachers report).
- **Outdoor Play:** Mrs Murdoch asked if there would be a possibility of changing some of the ground around trim trail so that it would more accessible in all weather conditions. Mrs Sandilands will look into this and feedback to parent council.

## **5. COVID Update**

- It is now possible to use the gym hall. Much PE will still take place outdoors but the additional option of the hall is there.
- There have been positive cases have been identified by members of the school community but as yet there have been no infectious cases within the building. Mrs Sandilands extended her thanks to all members of school community for working together to keep the school safe.
- Risk assessment – there have been changes to the lunch hall following guidance from test and protect (one of the risk assessment questions is who the children are sitting next to at lunch). Mr Bamford developed a map and a plan and pupils from p4-p7 will decide their seats each day when choosing food (and values of including people etc. are reinforced in this process). Pupils from P1-P3 choose their seats on a weekly basis. Packed lunches are no longer been eaten outside and all children go to lunch hall for their lunch. The feedback from the children has been positive.
- Staff are now wearing facemasks in corridors/canteen etc. Hallside had implemented this prior to guidance being put in place officially.
- Mrs Sandilands thanked all parents for their willingness to engage consistently with public health advice.

## **6. Councillors' Reports**

- Councillor Brogan provided feedback to Mrs Christie that he is in talks about procurement and looking for examples to co-ordinate with other schools from our ward. Mrs Sandilands to do this from the school perspective and parents can email in to the parent council email address if they have any specific examples.
- Councillor Loudon reflected that she felt still in the middle to crisis and she enjoyed the moment Mrs Sandilands took at the start of the meeting to pause and think about learning and the recognised resilience of children. South Lanarkshire Council is currently working in response rather than recovery. It was recognised that South Lanarkshire is in Tier 3 and under daily review (other areas in Scotland are on weekly), she fed back that there is some early evidence that numbers are reducing. She re-iterated the importance of sticking to the guidelines.

- There are some concerns across south Lanarkshire about absence and staffing and this does not appear to be the case in Hallside at this time. Councillor Loudon also stated she was happy to hear examples where there were attempts by schools to balance the regulations with decisions that are in each schools' interest. She fed back that there had been some push-back about the perceived over-inclusive nature of self-isolation. This appears to an issue in secondary and people have made contact about allocated seats and masks for senior pupils. Residents of South Lanarkshire have been making contact with queries about restrictions and the variations and anomalies in these. She assured us that when Public health make these decisions that they are made with the best evidence at that time.
- Breakfast Clubs remain under review and south Lanarkshire are looking at other ways to assist children who were in need of breakfast club for more than just a childcare perspective. There was discussion about the reasons why some councils are doing breakfast clubs and not others, and why private breakfast clubs could run but not school based ones. Councillor Loudon reflected her concerns about the lack of council run breakfast clubs due to child poverty. If people interested in piloting schemes that would address poverty and hunger such as "toast and go" she advised speaking to council.
- She also spoke about the provision of school meals over the holidays for the children who are entitled to these. It is likely this will use the same system as in the lockdown where money is loaded onto a pay point card. Councillor Loudon described the decision making criteria about using cash on a pay point for south Lanarkshire rather than vouchers following a question from Mr Bamford about whether data was available about what this money had been spent on.
- Councillor Loudon also mentioned the Climate change committee including parking and traffic. Glasgow City Council has started to pilot car free zones. This something that may be considered in south Lanarkshire. It was recognised that barriers may exist in doing this for Hallside such as train stations/residential areas etc. These factors will be considered. There is no confirmation on time scales for this and there are likely to be additional challenges too implementation due to COVID restrictions. (E.g. no car share/public transport/taxi). Councillor Loudon will feedback if any information forthcoming about this.
- Councillor Fulton advised of a consultation on the forestry and woodland strategy 2020 on the council website. There is a chapter on it on community participation including supporting education and lifelong learning (chapter 7 – community involvement). He requested that as a parent group it would be helpful to read this and send thoughts in. The consultation ends 11 November and Councillor Fulton will send the link to Mrs Christie to disseminate to parent body. He continues to deal with local council business as required.

#### **7. Christmas Project – e.g. Foodbank Donations/supporting local families in the community**

- A number of members of the school community have expressed an interest in supporting foodbanks or other causes during run up to Christmas. Several ideas were suggested:
  - Donating meals via social bite
  - Giving to a local foodbank
  - Children doing odd jobs to raise money to buy another child a gift

- It was agreed these types of ideas would be more appropriate than targeting individual families. Mrs Sandilands will discuss with the Pupil Council and get their opinions about this. The Parent council offer their support in taking this forward. Discussion took place about liking the Pupil and Parent Council in a future meeting.
- Mrs Sandilands will circulate a document from Uddingston Grammar that had idea for supporting families affected by the coronavirus restrictions.
- It was acknowledged that the Halloween fun day had gone well in school and thanks were given to staff for their hard work in making it possible, and particularly Mr Bamford for his organisational skills in the whole school cinema extravaganza and also Friends of Hallside for the goody bags and particularly Susan and Jill for their role in this.
- The last Friday in November will be a dress down/fun day for Plaster in purple.
- There will be a virtual nativity in December.

#### **8. Breakfast Club Update**

- Covered within head teacher report and councillor report.

#### **9. Pupil Safety**

- Mrs Christie contacted Greenbelt about the overgrown nature of the roundabouts. She was informed this was part of architectural design. Councillor Brogan has confirmed he will pursue an urgent review to establish if this architectural design is still fit for purpose. Councillor Loudon has also asked them about this.
- Quotes for signs direct – Mr McCallum sent Mr Bamford a link with quotes for the school safety signs discussed. These were £570 (£657 if reflective) for 3 signs including vat and postage. This will need further discussion before a final decision is taken.

#### **10. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 2nd December 2020 – wear your glad rags and bring your virtual mince pies**



## Hallside Primary School

Parent Council Meeting 04.11.20

### Headteacher Report

#### Introduction

Lovely to see everyone, thank you for joining. In the HT report I will discuss some operational aspects and strategic aspects of school life in the report.

At the last meeting I started with a quote from Alma Harris, who is Professor of Educational Leadership and part of the International Council of Advisors to Scottish Gvt. A different quote tonight which resonated with our staff team at a recent meeting, "School leaders on this journey are defined by their determination, their hope, and their unshakable belief that whatever happens, whatever the cost, whatever the scale of the challenge, they will continue to do everything in their power to safeguard the learning of all young people."

At Hallside we are fortunate to have a dedicated staff team and wider school community support who are going over and above every day to ensure a safe, rich learning experience for pupils in our building and our pupils who are having to learn from home.

#### Continuity of Learning

At the last meeting I shared with you SLC definition of Continuity of Learning and set out our rationale for using Google Classroom as the platform for all home learning.

#### Important Guiding Principles

- All plans should be developed in partnership with parents, learners and staff
- The learning experience for individual learners should be as **progressive as context allows**.

Google Classroom is being used by all classes for home learning since Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

Teaching staff are tracking pupils engagement with Google Classroom and discuss with SLT children who are not engaging. SLT have then been contacting families via a supportive phone call to offer support or advice as necessary.

Most of our children and families are engaging very well.

#### Potential Barriers Identified and Action taken

- Access to technology

In addition to the devices provided to families from an equity perspective we continue to loan school chrome books to families who have advised that access to technology is a barrier to engagement in home learning.  
(Our ICT suite remains fully equipped for in school use, also).

- EAL has been identified as a barrier for a few families. We are working with youth family and community learning officer (ESOL) to support some families.

We have also engaged with the 'national offer' from Education Scotland and E-sgoil. E-sgoil offer live lessons in numeracy, literacy, health and wellbeing to support children to continue to have a rich learning experience while spending an extended period of time learning from home. This is in addition to the learning opportunities provided by the class teacher. We have received very positive feedback from pupil and parents who have engaged with this and will continue to offer this to pupils who are self-isolating for an extended period of time and who are able to engage with this facility.

- Welcome feedback home learning.

### Operational

#### Learning and Teaching / Parental Engagement

Our children continue to be very happy and settled back at school. Thank you to Mr Bamford for his Friday and Saturday night, this week, Twitter updates. We held a fabulous Halloween Fun Day and in school class whole school movie extravaganza. It was a wonderful day with very positive feedback from pupils, parents and staff that it felt 'normal' and was so much fun. A massive thank you to Friends of Hallside and Susan, our Cook-in-charge for funding and organising goody bags. We also recently held JRSO virtual interviews, we were so proud of all children who participated in this process and we look forward to the new JRSOs helping us to promote road safety in the school and community.

Lots of wonderful learning has been taking place, as you can see from our twitter updates and Google Classroom. Staff team are meeting next weeks to finalise our plans for reporting to parents (take place at the end of this month) Teaching staff are working on interim reports and some pupils and staff are working on creating videos to share learning and school environment with parents/carers. We will incorporate a mechanism to establish two way communication on the reports, may be a check in call with SLT post report or feedback form where parent/carer can request call back. We are also working on ways to share our new attachment informed, positive behaviour system. Based on consultation we have agreed 3 rules to be a Hallside Hero, Be Safe, Be Kind, Be learning. Feedback from children and staff has been very positive. We aim to showcase all of this great work the way we would normally do at parents night but in a virtual format.

### Budget

We propose to use some funds from our budget lines to purchase more chrome books to support the increased use of Google Classroom.

### Safety and Infrastructure

I meet on a regular basis with staff and pupils to review the risk assessment that is in place. This revised risk assessments are available on the school website.

As you know the national and local guidance has recently changed. We tweeted, emailed and sent a letter to advise of these important changes. A huge thank you to our parents/carers in adhering to these new guidelines and supporting us in continuing to keep our school community safe.

Another recent change, PE can now take place indoors. This is exciting news and allows us to utilise our lovely new gym hall. It should be noted that classes may still choose to go outside for gym.

### Staffing

Staffing has been relatively stable recently. We recently held interviews for the post of School Support Staff Team Leader, we were delighted that Mrs Gillian MacMillan who worked 3 days as SSA has been successful in securing the full time team leader post.

### Breakfast Club

I know our school community are keen for Breakfast Club to restart. The re-opening of Breakfast Clubs remains under review across all SLC schools. As soon as I know of any changes to that position I will advise.

End of HT Report

*"When we work together everything is within our reach."*



