



Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Held via Zoom call

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

Mrs Sandilands, Mrs O'Neil, Mr Bamford,

17 Parents

Apologies from Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Walter Brogan and Councillor Alistair Fulton

The Chair opened the meeting by extending the condolences on behalf of the Parent Council with respect to the death of their colleague Mrs. Pamela Johnston.

## **2. Head Teacher Report**

- See Appended Document

### **2.1 Discussion during head teachers report**

The Parent Council asked if they can support the consultation, in particular regarding the points about the numbers of pupils required in order for a Depute Head Teacher to be assigned to the school. Mrs Sandilands advised that parents can fill in the online consultation and the link will be distributed for this via the parent council email. The Chair also volunteered to write to South Lanarkshire Council on behalf of the Parent Council outlining our concerns about the detrimental impact this would have on Hallside Primary School.

The budget consultation also contained information about the mandatory class sizes for P1. A parent asked about impact of class sizes on teaching staff and reassurance was offered that it should not impact on the provision of teaching in the school.

A parent asked about if the school can provide printouts of worksheets for people who don't have printers and this will be possible.

A parent asked about strategies for improving engagement for children who find it difficult to engage in remote learning. They also asked about how remote learning is monitored and how feedback is provided to children. Mrs Sandilands explained that staff complete weekly tracking engagement spreadsheet and this information is used to action supportive phone calls to families. SLT also are continually involved in quality assurance and informed by feedback we are continually improving the remote learning offer. Strategies they are trying such as small group targeted live meets. Teaching staff will continue to revise and improve opportunities for feedback in light of consultation results from parents/carers and children.

A parent asked whether there were ways to improve engagement and communication from the school staff with the parent body about what is in place and what is in development for remote learning. They also asked about whether there was flexibility about hand in times of work. Reassurance was offered that there is flexibility and if it possible to let the children message teachers to say work will be late. Mrs Sandilands remarked that there is no current national standard for remote learning and that Hallside have devised their own standards based on the emerging information from Education Scotland and feedback from stakeholders.

A parent requested work on google classroom be set the night before – Mrs Sandilands said all work will be on Google Classroom by 8am at the latest.

A parent asked about whether you need to do everything that is set on Google Classroom and reassurance was offered that this was to try ensure everyone had work but the focus should be on the core recovery curriculum (Literacy, Numeracy, Health and Wellbeing)

### **3. Latest Scottish Government Update Implications**

It was recognised that school staff receive the updates from the Scottish Government at the same time as the rest of the population. Mrs Sandilands has requested further information about a number of elements of the potential return to school for P1 –P3 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February. These include:

- What will happen with the P3/4 composite class.
- The revisions of the risk assessments relating to coronavirus.
- Whether there will be blended learning.
- Whether the hub school facility will continue.

A parent enquired if teachers who are currently providing online learning to the children in P4 and above would be reallocated to the children from P1-P3. This has not been discussed so the staff team were unable to comment although stated that this would not be a preferred option.

### **4. Catchment Areas – update**

The Chair has received an update from Lynn Sherry, Head of education (Support Services and School Estate), South Lanarkshire Council. She stated due to reprioritisation there is no current update. She has advised she will try and provide an update for the March Parent Council meeting.

### **5. Breakfast Club Update/ Councillors' Reports**

The Chair read out the following segment from an email from Katy Loudon, South Lanarkshire Council:

“...breakfast clubs have been one of the savings proposals put forward by officers. Every year they're asked to draw them up, and we have to balance what we get from the Government versus what they suggest. Breakfast clubs were suggested by officers since they're a non-statutory service (although this may change, as I'll come on to in a minute).

For the last couple of years, we've held cross-party budget talks to decide that together, since we have a minority administration and need to reach cross-party agreement. This year, one party had decided not to take part, but the rest of us are as usual.

In these talks, each party negotiates their "red lines", and hopefully we'll come to an agreement. That's still ongoing, and none of it has been decided.

So speaking as myself here because nothing is finalised, it was our group that proposed introducing the breakfast and holiday clubs, because we recognised the difference they could make. I also was delighted to see that if there's not a change in Government come May, they've pledged to roll out free breakfast clubs to every primary pupil. So I have always argued their benefits, and will continue to do so during budget discussions.

I see an important part of my role to put the case forward to protect all Education budget lines as far as possible, and that is what I'll continue to do through the whole process.

Again speaking personally, I don't know of any appetite amongst others (pardon the pun) to make any changes to the current position on breakfast clubs.

We've still to get the breakdown of what the Scottish budget means for Councils from officers later this week, but from looking at the figures, there has been an increase to our budget. The officers' proposed cuts are based on the status quo, whilst our Council Leader has put out a statement to say we're still waiting to hear more, but the settlement looks "promising". I'm optimistic about what that means for services. “

Mrs Sandilands commented on the relative protection that the Education Services budget has in comparison to some other services within the remit of South Lanarkshire Council.

A parent enquired if Breakfast Club was no longer provided by South Lanarkshire Council would there be a possibility of this being provided by the school for fee. It was agreed that this was a possibility.

## **6. Interim Reports – feedback**

Mrs Sandilands explained some context about the interim reports. She stated that report writing forms part of teachers Working Time Agreement and hours are allocated for report writing and meeting with parents. Also at the time of report writing there was no access to approved software for video calling families. On the 14<sup>th</sup> December SLC approved using VScene to meet with parents and carers (No other platforms are approved to use with parents). There is potential for this to be used for contact between teachers and parents in the future.

A parent enquired about how to recognise and catch up for students who are behind in their learning. Standardised assessment results were included in interim reports and were one aspect to inform teachers professional judgement about whether children were on track to achieve the expected level. HT explained assessments were used diagnostically to identify next steps in learning.

A parent commented on the interim reports being brief and not holding the depth of information needed to make the scoring meaningful for their child. She also highlighted the child found the process of feeding back via the google form quite upsetting. A discussion took place about how to involve families and children in meaningful feedback in the future.

## **7. Pupil Safety**

The Chair read out the following email which was sent in response to the Parent Council's request for a review of road safety measures in the vicinity of the school.

Dear Ms. Christie,

I refer to my previous email of 1 September 2020 regarding a report that was prepared with the conclusions of the parking survey in the vicinity Newton Station.

The report included a proposal to introduce waiting restrictions on both sides of Newton Station Road from the roundabout up to the chicanes and we were awaiting a decision whether this was going to be progressed.

However, due to the circumstances in relation to the current pandemic, the volume of people using public transport has decreased significantly which has resulted in the number of vehicles parking in Newton Station Car Park to also decrease significantly. I can advise therefore that it is our intention to postpone the decision on the proposed restrictions until traffic conditions return to normal. We will update you once a decision has been made.

It should be noted that in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, funding was made available to create safer environments on the roads outside of schools to promote active travel. With the funding, we plan to introduce a mandatory 20mph zone around Hallside Primary School and Park View Primary School. This new zone will include new road markings and signs to create a safer environment on the roads that surround both schools.

We trust the above explains the Council's position at this time.

Yours sincerely,

***On behalf of Stuart Laird, Traffic and Transportation Engineer***

**Chris Murphy BEng MIHE**

## **8. Family zoom call – your thoughts**

The school staff have been trying to think about ways to engage the school community and wondered if people would be interested in taking part in a Family Zoom Quiz hosted by resident Quizmaster, Mr Bamford. There was interest in this and discussions will take place about how to take this forward.

## **9. AOCB**

Mrs Christie is unable to Chair the meeting in March (Happy Birthday for March 3<sup>rd</sup> Mrs Cl) and Dr Sharp will do this in her place. A plea was made for someone to volunteer to take the

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next minutes and if you are interested please contact Mrs Christie via the Parent Council email account.

10. **Date of next meeting** – Wednesday 3rd March 2021 @ 6.30pm via zoom

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