

## CHATELHERAULT PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL

7th September 2023

### PRESENT

Mrs McCann Mr O' Neill	Cllr Gavin Keatt Cllr John Ross
Daniel Rae Lynn Dickson	Fiona Simpson Chloe Spelman
Lloyd Callander Diane Leiper Lauren Brown	Cheryl Cumming Eleanna Vourga Elaine Brennan

### WELCOME:

Daniel welcomed everyone to this evening's hybrid meeting, and explained the agenda for this meeting would include updates from the school, local councillors, and the Parent Council.

Firstly, we needed to hold the annual AGM whereby we vote for the Parent Council positions. Daniel confirmed the current team consisting of himself, Lynn, Fiona and Chloe are happy to remain in place, and no one had shared their interest in joining the team. Therefore, the team will remain as is for this year. However, if anyone is interested in becoming a regular part of the team, please get in touch. (To this date 15/9/23, no one has made a request so we will continue with current office bearers for this year or unless anyone resigns).

### CHAIR REPORT:

Daniel confirmed that the Parent Council plan to continue fundraising for the annual items, such as purchasing ties for Nursery children and P7s, purchasing books for Nursery, P1 and P2 from Santa, and events such as Discos throughout the year. Daniel explained that last year we also tried an Easter Trail which was very successful, and included the local community. We did it again in the Summer which was fun also. We will continue to try different ideas and are happy to receive suggestions for support.

Daniel noted that due to low numbers of volunteers, the planned summer fair did not go ahead in June and suggested that we may do better by hosting smaller events, and we must not compare ourselves to other larger schools.

Daniel thanked, on behalf of the Parent Council, everyone who volunteered last year for various events, including the three discos we held. Your support is very much appreciated.

At our next events we will make more definitive roles for volunteers events – for example, having someone monitor who goes in and out of toilets or monitoring exits.

Daniel shared that we continually review how we communicate to the school – The Facebook Group has been in use for a long time and is useful for polling opinion or sharing reminders as well as receiving suggestions and questions. A WhatsApp group has also been introduced too to provide a different method of contact. Suggestions on comms channels are very welcome so suggestions from parents and carers are welcome.

Daniel has also signed us up on a Parent Council events site – PTA Events. Office bearers will trial functionality and decide on whether to use it for events, payments and updates. More news to follow on this!

Daniel also shared that he has liaised with members of Parent Councils at other schools and they have found a 6-monthly newsletter helps parents/carers to know what we are planning to do and when. Feedback on this idea is welcome!

Daniel asked Mrs McCann and Mr O'Neill if there was anything in particular they feel the PTA could fund raise for, rather than being for the school in general. The theory being that having targets and itemised “wishlists” may get a better response. There was a suggestion that each class could create a wishlist.

Mrs McCann explained how the cost of school basics have increased in price but she would like the PTA to fundraise for the fun things that the children benefit from. It was discussed regarding the prices of the end of year medals and the PTA are happy to ensure we fund these for all the children as these cost approx.. £900. Mrs McCann will share some examples of school costs for items and events that the Parent Council can use as ‘targets’.

At the last meeting, we discussed the cost of transport for trips and sport events, and as the PTA we are happy to fund these where we can also. Mrs McCann explained how in the past the school has linked with other schools to share rides, but these haven't always gone ahead. Cllrs Ross and Keatt said they would enquire about council supply of transport rather than the need to pay for private coaches or taxis which are very expensive.

### **PARENT COUNCIL PLANS:**

Between now and Christmas we are planning the following events. We welcome more ideas as well from everybody.

October: Halloween-themed party for nursery and P1-3, plus disco for P4-7. Trick or Treat Trail in the community.

November: Quiz night for adults

December: ‘Elfridges’ gift shop and Elf Workshops. Christmas lights trail.

Halloween disco and party will take place on Thursday 26th October and the trail on Sunday 29th October. More details to follow.

While we'll be asking for parents to accompany nursery-aged kids to the Halloween party, we will require a number of volunteers to cover each session on the 26<sup>th</sup>, so we'd encourage people to volunteer to help run this event.

### **FINANCES:**

Fiona (treasurer) confirmed the following money the Parent Council raised last year:

Current balance = £1816.47

Halloween Discos = £300

Easter Disco = £138.74

Easter Trail = £134.83

Shorts N Shades = £238.79

Summer Trail = £40 loss

Ties = £250 spent

### **SCHOOL UPDATES:**

Mrs McCann announced the successful recruitment of the new ASN Deputy for the school - Daniel, the chair of the PTA supported with the interview process and she is settling in well.

We also have 3 new teachers who have commenced this year, along with 3 supply teachers, as well as 5 new staff around the school in various roles. Welcome to all!

Within South Lanarkshire Council we have a new Executive Director for Education, whom the school has a good relationship with so we are looking forward to working with her.

24x P1s have settled into the school, along with 7 new families joining the school due to moving to the area - Welcome!

Following a discussion held last year, it was agreed to try the school photos earlier in the year, so we are not paying for these on top of Christmas - hopefully we will receive the prints soon so orders can be made. It was asked if we could look at another photographer as they seem to take a long time to get the prints out, and other schools use companies who send out online the same day. Mrs McCann understands the wait is longer, but feels our current photographer is really good when here for 3 days and communicates well with the children, particularly with the ASN children and that's something that needs to be considered. Mrs McCann will put in the newsletter that you can order pictures at any time once the prints are received - so can order at a convenient time for you.

The school has applied for Gold reading award and Gold sports award which is great news!

P7s are planning their Spooktacular event already - more news to follow. Possibility that Woodside P7s will be allowed to attend too (as they don't have a wood like Chatelherault does).

P5 will commence forest school soon, joining P6 and 7 and children will complete their John Muir award by completing this.

### **COUNCILLOR UPDATES:**

Cllr Keatt started by thanking the PTA on behalf of the community for recent events that had included all. He had heard positive things. Cllr Keatt will look into the recent parking complaints and review plans other local schools are looking at to ensure it doesn't make

Silvertonhill and surrounding roads worse.

Cllr Ross extended his hopes for the road issues to be reviewed and reiterated he will ask regarding local transport to be used for sporting events and trips. Cllr Ross also informed all that the budgets for South Lanarkshire are being heavily reviewed for Education and Social Care and expressed his concern on this. More information will be released over the next few weeks.

Cllr Ross informed all that he was interviewing this week for the Chief Executive position, so more news will follow on the success of these.

**AOB:**

Daniel raised to the Cllrs at the meeting regarding the ongoing traffic issues that surround the school. Plans have been made to help Woodside, but we worry this will affect Chatelherault more, so this needs to be looked into. It has been reported that people are now parking on the mini roundabout on Arran Gardens, which is extremely dangerous. Cllr Keatt is already aware of this issue and it is being looked into.

Daniel also raised that he had been informed the MUGA was closed for part of the summer - was anybody aware of this No one was aware this was closed? The assumption is it was closed for a day or two for repair work and the MUGA is intended to be open for community use all year round.

It was asked if the council were considering a 2-week October half term and 1 week less in the summer as other areas had introduced. It isn't on the agenda currently, but an online consultation on proposed holidays was shared earlier this year for people to add opinions too and this happens annually.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday 10th October 2023. 6pm at Chatelherault School (or online via Google Meet).