**Parent Council Minutes 27.2.19**

Present – D. Lee, L. Dollard, L. Whelan, M. Shaw, H. Preece, S. McPhee, E. Lewis, F. Maugeri-Todaro

Apologies – L. Anderson, S. Mackay,

**Intro** –

* Previous minutes not sent yet. Would it be possible to appoint a permanent clerk? The ideal would be for minutes to be distributed approx. 1 week before meetings so that parents can comment.
* LWhelan will take lead on minutes if possible. Negotiate sharing role if LW unable to attend.
* All in agreement to continue

**School Update - Mrs Dollard**

Mrs Dollard welcomed members to her first Parent Council meeting and briefly went on to give an update of activities since her arrival at the school in January

* **Self-evaluation tasks** took place with the pupils and staff as a means to share their own thoughts about aspects of the school (What do you like, What would you like to do now)
* Mrs Dollard praised the welcoming and friendly team that she has here at Braehead Primary. She finds the staff to be open-minded, solution focussed and motivated by a deep sense of commitment to the children. Mrs Dollard has found that a great motivator for the staff is the pupil’s enthusiasm to learn. Her experiences thus far have also demonstrated the supportive nature of our parent body and she is looking forward to continuing to meet with parents. Mrs Dollard shared that she is feeling ‘at home’ in Braehead already and looking forward to working together with staff, parents and pupils.
* **RCCT** – some slight changes were made to staff RCCT (Reduced Class Contact Time) so as to allow teachers a full 2.5 hours out at once. This is less disruptive and more time efficient for both the pupils and parents. Staff have reported positive feedback to Mrs Dollard since implementation
* **Twitter** access by staff was then discussed. Mrs Dollard asked for PC to promote the use of the school Twitter page. Access by individual classes has also been discussed and staff are thinking of ways to promote the use and increase the use of Twitter for each class – possibility of purchasing some extra tablets/cameras for ease of use.
* **Inservice clear up** – two skips were required during the recent Inservice days to clear out old resources, broken furniture and other items that have been stored in the school for a considerable length of time. Staff worked tirelessly to clear areas/give areas a ‘facelift’ including
	+ painting the hall,
	+ clearing out old cupboards
	+ centralising resources for easy access
	+ identifying resources that are required to improve areas
* Mrs Dollard shared that there are still areas for improvement and as a first step the school would like to request the support of any parents/carers/friends of the school who have expertise in painting and decorating to contact the school. Could the PC support the communication of this? The school will add a request into the next newsletter and PC suggested possibility of a community action morning to attend to some tasks – to be discussed in the future.
* **Trim Trail** – pupils miss the chance of using. Some suggestions for improvement include giving it a coat of varnish. Could this be an area where parents could support? F. Maugeri-Todaro shared that the PC looked into alternatives to trim trail in the past. F. Maugeri-Todaro to send links of reduced cost examples of alternative play etc. to L.Dollard
* **House Captains** – children are working well and doing a great job. Plan to increase the responsibility of the House Captains. Children have had great ideas which we have implemented where appropriate so far, e.g. Secret Student, house badges.
* **Lunchtime arrangements** – discussion took place considering ways to improve the current lunchtime arrangements at the school. The possibility of changing the timings of lunchtime was considered as a means to reduce the number of altercations between pupils during the current 60minute lunch. The staff have been informally recording the number of incidents over recent weeks and have found the highest number to occur in the last 15minutes of lunch break. This would be reduced if lunch moved to be 45mins long. Some discussion surrounding the timings for children to manage to finish their lunch in the allocated time. It was shared that at the moment the lunch hall is usually clear by 1pm anyway and that consideration would be given to younger pupils or those not finished in the allocated time. Mrs Dollard also shared proposal for changing the lunch order to allow all P1, P2 and P7 to eat first. This is an area for future discussion. Mrs Dollard will seek advice/consultation with relevant parties and feedback at next meeting. LD to look up how we would carry out a consultation. Comments for consideration include arrangements for home lunch pupils (will 45mins be long enough?) and staff lunch break changes.
* **RISK Initiative** – Mrs Dollard shared the new initiative to give some children roles of responsibility within the school. The RISK initiative would include children interviewing for the post of ‘Risketeer’ and be asked to model responsible, inclusive, safe and kind behaviour. These Risketeers along with staff will be able to award children with winning tickets for this positive behaviour. These children will then be able to access a Common Room which is being developed within the school. Planned to begin after Easter break.
* **Common Room** – developing a new room within the school for children to access at certain times. Some pupils become overwhelmed at unstructured time and this provides an indoor alternative for outdoor play, managed by an adult, where pupils can play board games, calm music etc. Plan to launch after Easter break. Plan to use the space at the back of the Discovery Base.
* **Communication update**
	+ **App Purchase**
		- Discussed the possibility of purchasing an App to develop our lines of communication. It would include a line of direct communication as well as a calendar option. The school have investigated purchasing an App from App Central - £480 per year. Could the PC assist with this cost or could we negotiate price sharing? Some members have experience of apps from other schools and have been impressed. F. Maugeri-Todaro reported there’s already enough to cover half this cost. The only slight concern is that child interaction is missing and we should perhaps consider the children who do not have access to phones although it was suggested that that would not apply to many.
		- Website – plans to make it more static and information based
		- Twitter would be the forum for sharing updates etc
		- Mrs Whelan preparing a Communication document to share with parents which will highlight the ways in which we plan to communicate. Awaiting update re App first

**Priority Based Budget**

* Comments from previous meeting were sent to Community Link worker, who passed it on to team for consideration and inclusion in feedback (H.Preece).
* F. Maugeri-Todaro to forward the original email to LD.
* Discussed possibility of linking with other PC groups for future discussions – tbc
* Considered whether it might be worth going through Connect to discuss further? Could we set it up ourselves quicker than Connect could? F. Maugeri-Todaro will share the name of the relevant person (council officer who deals with the PC) to Hayley to contact re sharing.

**Cycle path / link road**

* Update from M.Shaw
* Link road might not go ahead but cycle path will – implications for lollipop lady position were discussed
* Currently, and during the work on the bridge, the traffic on the road did not meet the standard for having a lollipop lady on the road. Stirling Council are now creating cycle path from Bannockburn into town centre, through Wallace Park. They plan a zebra crossing with a cycle crossing. When this happens we will be in for a struggle to keep the lollipop lady at that point. As discussed at recent Community Council meeting.
* Proposed changes will be good for cyclists and will improve area for traffic calming
* Link road would change the traffic flow completely. See planning portal on website for more details
* Braehead Community Council, Kings Park Community Council, Craigs Community Council are objecting to link road due to possibility of there being more traffic through area once the link road is in place. Kings Park are complaining as it will increase their traffic flow.
* Concerns to do with young children crossing the road. Not always the volume of traffic but the irresponsibility of drivers (speed etc.)
* Community Police Officers could attend a PC meeting in the future to discuss traffic/antisocial behaviour/drug abuse etc. Parental parking behaviour before and after school (behind nursery – bump up on the pavement) is a problem area that they could perhaps support
* M.Shaw to keep us informed of updates from Community Council meetings.
* PC to add a notice on the Facebook page to ask for ideas/insights etc. on this subject
* School to continue to focus on road safety with children, how to cross a road safely, link with Community Police to support, Road Safety Week – LW to investigate further
* Bikeability (specific year groups) is planned for Summer term
* JRSO – discussed by Community Police – used to police the parking, parking tickets, stands to put out (borrowed from police) – school to investigate further
* Actions – awareness on Facebook and ask for comments, Martin to try and get electronic copy of proposed plans for Facebook as a matter of awareness raising for now.

**Connect Training**

* Reminder that there is specific training available from Connect which would directly benefit members of the Parent Council e.g. School Improvement Planning
* Due to low number of participants Connect have been cancelling sessions. Email sent out to ask for feedback. Reminder that meetings are open to all. Resource that is there and not being used. So much to learn.
* If none of the PC can make it, could open it to parent body/teachers etc.

**AOCB**

MOMO –

* Recent internet trend
* Several concerns shared from parents
* Reiterating the message of internet safety. Info to parents as to how to monitor. Will put advice on website / Facebook

Credit Union

* Thanks for the support in finding our very valuable volunteers
* Children are enjoying the experience
* Facebook update to continue to promote the Credit Union

Extended Hours Nursery

* Recruitment process for Principal ECE, Admin, Senior ECE will be taking place in next few weeks
* Considerable changes throughout Scotland with regards to Nursery hours etc.
* More information to follow as and when available.

Breakfast Club

* Follow up from 3 wishes survey
* Big implications re cost
* Historical – put on hold due to transition of headteacher,
* Community considerations – bridge traffic implications
* Research previously taken by PC
* Some feedback from other meetings about breakfast club include parents not being pleased about quality of food, cost not being covered
* Agenda for future discussions
* Implications re if over 45mins then it is has to be registered as Care Inspectorate

**Outcome/Actions**

* LWhelan will take lead on minutes if possible. Negotiate sharing role if LW unable to attend.
* Possibility of purchasing some extra tablets/cameras for ease of use to promote the use of Twitter throughout school
* PC to request volunteers from the parent body for support with painting and decorating. School will add a request to next Newsletter
* Consideration of a Community Action Day in the future to support developments throughout the school
* Trim Trail improvements - F. Maugeri-Todaro to send links of reduced cost examples of alternative play etc. to L.Dollard
* Lunchtime arrangements – future discussions surrounding proposed changes. Mrs Dollard will seek advice/consultation with relevant parties and feedback at next meeting. LD to look up how we would carry out a consultation.
* Communication – possibility of PC funding/part-funding the purchase of an app to further improve communication channels. Mrs Whelan preparing a Communication document to share with parents which will highlight the ways in which we plan to communicate. Awaiting update re App first
* Priority Based Budgeting - F. Maugeri-Todaro to forward the original email to LD. F. Maugeri-Todaro will share the name of the relevant person (council officer who deals with the PC) to Hayley to contact re sharing.
* Cycle Path /Link Road - awareness on Facebook and ask for comments (ideas, insights), M.Shaw to try and get electronic copy of proposed plans for Facebook as a matter of awareness raising for now and to keep us informed of discussions at Community Council level
* School to implement Road Safety Week (as planned) and develop JRSO group with support of Community Police
* Bikeability (specific year groups) to take place during the Summer term
* Reiterate the message of internet safety. Share info with parents as to how to monitor children’s internet use. Will put advice on website / Facebook regarding recent upsetting trends
* Credit Union – PC to continue to promote through Facebook page

Next meeting – 27th May 2019

F. Maugeri-Todaro will send round email to see if interested in an extra meeting before May