



DUNBLANE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held 27th May 2021

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting (23rd March 2021)
3. Head Teacher Report
4. Treasurer Update
5. Fundraising Group Update
6. School Lunches
7. Sports Day
8. New P1 Families / Parent Council introduction
9. Dates of Future Meetings

1. Welcome & Apologies

Present:

David Williams (Chair)
Anneli Spence (Secretary)
Susan Henderson (Treasurer)
Andrew Buchanan (Vice-Chair)
Sarah Begg
Laura Whyte
Kerry Morrison
Linsey Macmillan
Denise Kelly
Kath Grainger
Anne Marie Neilson
Nicola Smart

Emma Carter (Member)
Rona Lockyer (Member)
Jo Falconer (Member)
Alison Webster (Member)
Lorraine Slabbert (Head)
Ruth Allan (Depute)
Shirley Gallivan (Depute)

Nicola Bonham
Liz Wilson
Lucy Hawkins

Apologies:

Morag Sorbie (Member)
Diane Jack (Member)
Joanne Gudgeon

Kirsten Rodger (Member)
Mhairi Bowley
Alison Bonner

David welcomed everyone to the meeting (held as a virtual meeting over Google Meet due to the current social distancing rules).

2. Approval of Minutes: Minutes approved by all.

Lorraine confirmed that the work to install the new trim trail was scheduled to start on 28th June and should take 5-6 days.

David advised that he has been in touch with the DDT about the memorial garden and they have agreed to take over the maintenance from now on. This is fantastic news and David specifically noted how helpful his contact at the DDT, Monica Cessford, had been. The DDT will liaise directly with the Council about this and also about the appropriate planting. The maintenance will now be done 4 times per year by the DDT team as part of their regular schedule. All at the meeting agreed that this was great and expressed their thanks and appreciation to the DDT on behalf of the school community. Anneli suggested that the school could perhaps look at arranging a fundraiser for the DDT after the summer break as a thank you.

3. Head Teacher Report:

See Appendix I.

In relation to the attainment figures, Lorraine noted that there was no data from the end of last session due to lockdown but comparing the current figures against those from 2 years ago, the P4 and P7 figures were up across all areas. This is great news and shows that the disruption this year has had minimal impact on attainment. The figures for P1 are down on those from 2 years ago but Lorraine noted that this year's P1 cohort is very different from 2 years ago and there are a number of children in this year's P1 with significant additional needs.

Shirley updated the meeting on the Nursery Decant. Building work is taking place in the nursery during term 1 of next session and should last for the term. This is a change to what was planned, it was due to be done in the summer holidays however there have been issues with drainage which needs to get sorted and will delay the start of the work.

This work was due to happen last session but due to COVID was delayed a year but the nursery still managed to implement 1140 hrs. The work will involve getting a more school like entrance – parents can come in and see Kirsty behind the glass then they will go through

a secure entrance into nursery. There will also be more admin and work spaces created for staff along with a staff room, additional disabled/staff toilets and a change to the children's toilets, new kitchenette and additional storage.

The nursery will be in the school gym hall while the work takes place. If the COVID risk assessment allows 1 cohort, all will enter and exit through the fire exit door. If we are still in 2 cohorts in July, the gym hall will be split into 2, and access for 1 cohort will be via the P3/4 entrance and other will be via the fire exit. Two sets of toilets are just off the gym hall which each cohort can use, snacks will be prepared in the school kitchen. Lunch will be served in the school dinner hall, this will be an early lunch prior to school children arriving. There are changing and cloak room areas for jackets and belongings to be stored. Outdoor play options are still being discussed. Heras fencing will be erected off the gym hall fire door and the play area will be round the side of the gym, on the way to P3/4 playground.

Benefits:

- Secure – Can't have access to the whole school, fobbed entrance to the school building from the gym hall corridor.
- Support Preschool children's transition to school hearing the bell, use of gym hall, dinner hall.

The school has been in regular contact with the care inspectorate to discuss the decant plans. Nursery parents meetings were held 3 weeks ago to discuss the decant proposals with the parents. Another meeting will be held soon as the plans have changed a bit since then. The children are starting to identify resources they would like to take with them and boxes are here – it is just a case of starting to pack up the whole nursery.

4. Treasurer Update:

At the last meeting there was £12,622 in the bank account. There is currently £5,124 and the movements are as follows:

Item	Value (£)	Note
Balance b/f	12,622	
National Lottery Grant	10,000	As reported at last PC
Barrington Stokes payment	(500)	As reported at last PC
Payment to School – School Cloud video conferencing software	(200)	As mentioned at last PC
Payment to School – Trim Trail	(16,798)	Comprising £10,000 national lottery grant (above), £1,000 Tesco award (previously reported) and £5,798 from PC funds (agreed at last PC to fund balance up to £6k)
Balance	5,124	

There are no outstanding cheques at present, though at the last PC meeting we agreed to fund some 'loose parts' kits for the school playgrounds, costing approx £500/kit.

Ruth confirmed she will order 2 kits at a total cost of £1000 and will pass the invoices to the PC for payment.

5. Fundraising Group Update

No update.

6. School Lunches

Anneli noted that the PC had received emails from parents who were concerned about the type of food being offered for school lunches at the moment and also the fact that the children are still eating in their classrooms.

Lorraine explained that a balanced menu is being offered at the moment that follows national guidelines, with hot and cold and vegetarian options. All Stirling Council primary schools have the same lunch menu.

In relation to eating in the classrooms, there has been no change to the school guidance on social distancing in the classrooms, so there is still a huge amount of extra furniture that has been taken out of the classrooms and is being stored in the lunch hall and assembly hall. Children must also stay in their bubbles at lunchtime - as there are 8 bubbles, there would need to be 8 separate lunch sittings and it is simply not possible to accommodate that in our school with the numbers of children that we have and the limited space.

Rona asked about lunchtime supervision and raised concerns about young children being left alone in the classrooms with a TV on. Lorraine explained that each member of staff doing lunch supervision has 3 classes to look after and rotates round them so there are short periods of time at lunch when the children are not supervised. Unfortunately there are simply not enough staff to cover full time supervision for every class, even with the SLAs, SMT and janitor all doing some supervision and working through parts of their lunch hours. Lorraine also pointed out that in normal circumstances there would be around 200 children in the lunch hall at any one time with only 2 staff supervising. With regard to the TV, Lorraine appreciated the concerns but noted that it does help to keep the children entertained and help them to sit still and wait patiently until they can go out to play. Lorraine appreciates it is not ideal but noted that hopefully it won't be for much longer and things will be much more normal when school comes back in August.

Jo F stated that she understood that P7s at Newton Primary have a lunchtime monitor role - does this happen at DPS? Lorraine advised that usually the P7s would cover this as part of their buddying and house captain duties and there is normally a rota for P7s to support the younger children at lunchtime in wet weather etc. This has been really missed this year due to the Covid bubbles.

Kerry asked if water bottles can be refilled in school at the moment? Lorraine advised that the guidance is that children should come to school with all the water that they need for the day so that they don't need to refill, but that is not happening in practice so teachers are allowing children to refill water bottles or providing water where necessary. Parents should however send children to school with all the water they need.

7. Sports Day

Anneli has also been contacted by a parent asking why the children can't have a sports day for the school even if parents are not allowed to attend?

Lorraine advised that the guidance says that sports days are allowed for classes only and not for whole schools, however health week is taking place very soon and will be filled with lots of exciting events for the kids and visitors. Judy Murray is coming to open the Cog Jog and Ali Collins and Andrew Butchart are also coming to school. Callum Davidson is also bringing the 2 St Johnstone trophies and doing a Q&A with the children. Health week will be very sports oriented and some teachers will also be doing sports day type activities with their class.

8. New P1 Families / Parent Council introduction

Anneli and Morag had been in touch about how we could improve the way we welcome new families to the school from the point of view of introducing them to and letting them know about the PC. Shirley confirmed that there is a leaflet about the PC that is included in the welcome pack. It will be emailed out this year. Anneli and Morag will discuss further if there might be any changes we could make or anything else we could do to help raise awareness of the PC and encourage new parents/carers to come along to the meetings.

It was noted that the virtual meetings this year have been great for engagement - it is easier for parents to join in as they don't need to find childcare, it is more convenient, less intimidating etc. This hopefully helped to make the PC more inclusive. All agreed it would be good to stick with the virtual format next session.

Andrew suggested that the parents evenings should also be held virtually going forward for the same reasons. Lorraine advised this is something that the school is actively discussing at the moment.

9. Dates of Future Meetings:

The first meetings next session will be held remotely and will be on:

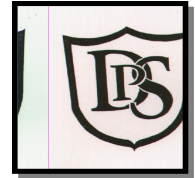
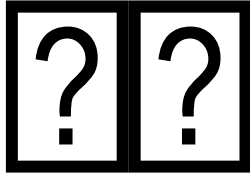
Thursday 23rd Sept 2021 (first PC meeting)

Thursday October 7th 2021 (AGM)

10. AOB

Jo F thanked the school for organising the P7 end of school activities. The kids are really excited and it's great that something has been able to be put together for them.

Kirsten Rodger had also sent an email to the PC before the meeting to pass on to the staff to thank them for all that they have done during another year like no other. A lot more goes on behind the scenes that pupils/parents are not aware of and as a parent Kirsten would like the staff to be acknowledged for all they have done, whether it be academic, wellbeing, community/family initiatives etc to make this academic year as smooth as possible for our children.



Parent Council Meeting
Head Teachers Report
May 27th Report

STAFFING UPDATE –

Teaching Staff

Mrs Tobin continues her maternity leave but she is returning to school on June 21st to join us prior to the holidays. This will give her time to support transition and staged intervention meetings for children she will have in her class next year.

Mrs Hislop will be going on maternity leave in September and we have had confirmation that we will be getting Mrs Aimee Russon to cover her 0.6 contract for the period of time until she returns. This will also mean we will be looking internally for a member of staff to act up as senior teacher in her absence. This will be completed next term following the Summer break.

Our PTP teachers Mrs Collington and Mrs Russon continue to be redeployed across the council and we do not expect to see them back with us before Summer at this point. The new base for PTP teachers is moving to Newton Primary for next year as we have had them here for two years.

At the point of writing this report we have not confirmed class configurations for next year as the numbers within school are still fluctuating with a number of moves into our catchment area. With the need to keep spaces for catchment and children coming into the area across the school the decision has not been set as of yet. As soon as we do know I will inform the parent council.

Mrs Susan Paterson is continuing her maternity leave until after the October holidays and we will have her replacement confirmed within the next week hopefully.

SWECE post advertised in the nursery and hopefully recruited prior to the holidays.

SLA staff

Mrs Rachel Coltherd was successful in securing a permanent SLA post in school to replace Mrs Janet Fisher. Congratulations to her and we are delighted to have secured her on the team.

Miss Rebecca Lindsey now moves into a fixed term contract with the school until next June which is secured through PEF funding.

Mrs Kate Gilmour stays with us on supply till the end of June and Miss Laura McWhinnie is also with us on supply till the end of the summer term. Both of these posts have been possible because of additional covid recovery money. Both members of staff are doing targeted interventions and support in the upper years mainly.

Mrs Sheila McGregor had been absent for an extended period of time and had planned to return to work on Monday 29th March. However she has made the decision to retire and spend time indulging her passion for volunteering and crafting. We wish her all the best in this.

Online Learning

We of course continue to make best use of the practice we developed during lock down using google meets as a tool for supporting our P7s in their transition to High School as well as other activities within classes including the work with our partner school in the Connecting Classrooms initiative as well as Scottish enterprising schools workshops delivered remotely also.

You may well be aware that where there have been outbreaks of covid 19 in communities such as Tullibody the public health body has been responding with full school closures across the area in order to contain the spread. This has meant a full return to remote learning for those communities. We of course are ready should this need to happen in Dunblane.

Environment

The school has received funding again from the authority to paint and floor areas of the school over a period of two years. Depending on costs the school may also be able to use some of the budget allocated to us to help with expanding the areas. Over the summer holidays there will be work undertaken in the designated areas prior to children's return in August.

Health Week

Miss Aylott PT Health and wellbeing has organised another fantastic health week, supported by John McCallum our new Active Stirling representative. Miss Aylott has secured Judy Murray for the opening of our Cog Jog on the Monday and this will be covered by our Comms. Department. It looks to be a brilliant week and will replace any formalised sports day events due to covid restrictions.

P7 Trip/ Graduation

Another year when the transition for the P7 stage has been different to previous years. However we are delighted that we have been able to offer remote opportunities with google meets. On site visit for children who require enhanced transition and of course we have organised a P7 trip to Crieff Hydro which was one of the options the children had asked us to explore. The afternoon of that visit will see some celebrations for the P7s also. As much as we understand it

is not what they would normally have we are confident we have secured a great day for them and recognition of their time in and celebration of primary school.

Mobile Phone Policy

There has been an increasing need to formalise expectations surrounding the use of mobile phones in school and the policy and guidelines were shared with the PC committee last week. Comments have been welcomed and staff have had the opportunity to add to it also. The guidelines themselves will be issued this week alongside an HT update.

Standards and Quality Report/School Improvement Plan

These documents are currently being produced for the school community and will be shared as and when completed. We are delighted that although we had the large period of closure in school the developments we planned for have on the whole still been progressed and successfully.

Attainment Data

We normally report attainment regarding P1, P4 and P7 at this time of year to the Scottish Government.

We report on reading, writing, listening and talking and numeracy.

P1

R 86% on track
W 88% on track
L&T 94% on track
N 95% on track

P4

R 82% on track
W 81% on track
L&T 89% on track
N 79% on track

P7

R 96% on track
W 86% on track
L&T 93% on track
N 88% on track

Nursery Decant

Continuing the work on 1140 expansion the nursery will be decanted over the summer period to make improvements to the building.

Session 2021/22

As mentioned previously we do not have confirmation of class composition at the time of writing this report. The housing market in Dunblane is very buoyant at present meaning families moving in and this can change the balance very quickly of what we can

and cannot offer in terms of classes. We will of course update as soon as possible. We cannot at this point guarantee there will not be composites.

Actions from previous meeting:

- Trim trail ordered with everything we wanted within the budget. Takes 6 to 8 weeks expecting to hear from them beginning of June.
- Waiting to hear back from infrastructure regarding lighting at nursery.
- Dunblane will have its connectivity improved greatly within the next few months possibly sooner.