

Minutes 05 Sep Parent Council AGM

Location: East Plean Primary School

Attendees:

School Staff: Mrs Donnelly, Mrs Atkinson and Mrs O'May

Parent Council: Emma Duff, Sarah Currie, Alison McInnes, Leigh Orffer, Lorna Hardie, Susan Rutherford & Lisa McCleave, Carly Norris, Morag Rendall, Joanne Devine,

Guest: Alyson Ross, Raploch Community Partnership

Apologies: Alison Ewing, Adrian Sinclair, Gill Ray, Ian Paterson, Louise Horsburgh

Summary (actions in **bold**)

Chair (Emma) welcomed all and summarised what parent council is:

- Represents voice for parents on issues important to them
- Help understand how most effectively involve parents
- Support school in developing strong home/ school partnerships
- Support the school in development and improvement & wider links with community
- Capture unique and varied skills, interest and knowledge and experience that parents can offer

Expectations of the parent council were outlined, in particular, what we might gather views about – provide a parent view to school to support decision making (e.g. communication strategies); support delivery of curriculum for excellence by tapping into parent' skills, experiences and expertise, provide input to processes preparing children for key transitions, help increase school's understanding on how has lockdown impacted community.

Some of the parent council key achievements 2021 – 22 were listed:

- School improvement plan
- Supported activities
- Effective communications
- Positive partnership Ogilvie
- Fundraising
- Lion king (sound system funded)
- School app
- P7 leavers gifts
- School retirement gifts
- Provided sensory wall materials

Funds 2021

- **Total income = £4217.10** (e.g. Clothing sale, 50:50 club, festive fundraising (xmas cards), hampers raffled)
- **Outgoing £3177.58** (e.g. Lego, storage, prizes for Halloween, retirement gifts, gambling license, IQ cards, Lion king sound / lights)
- **Balance £2509.53**

Headteacher update

Mrs Donnelly, thanked Parent Council and attendees to the meeting and emphasised how much school value parent views and feedback.

An update on school improvement plan was shared – some of the key points are summarised below, but the full report will be available for parents to access w/c 12 Sep via School App and School website.

- Implemented last year's improvement plan – focus on –learning through play. Creativity professional development opportunity Ms Coyle and Ms Murray attended and extending learning through play in P1 and P2. Play does not stop at a certain stage – creativity/ problem solving continues throughout life – what experiences do young people have within context (Dino, pirates, water-water everywhere) – creativity, working together – taking play into the curriculum to reinforce learning.
- Partnership with S< Nicola Orr, supporting delivery of S&L programmes – Teaching Children to Listen. Game playing – listen and follow instruction. Nicola's feedback valued. Delivered Colourful Semantics, literacy skills– understand sentence construction.
- Assessment of young people on listening skills – 12+ are top scores; Sep 21 assessment across school 63%, by May up to 80%.
- Dyslexia awareness pupil group established and supported communication throughout school. Autism awareness established. Plan to share with parents. Working towards Bronze level Speech and Language Communications award.
- Marvels' tools – streamlined from 12 resilience tools based on P7 feedback – shortlisted 5 priority tools – dedicated space in classroom where pupils can use the tools to express how they are feeling.
- Classrooms re-painted, during summer holiday, in calm colours.
- Core level achieved in Reading Schools Award (March '22) – now working on Silver Award.
- P7 Curriculum Ambassadors (working in P1-3) – supporting younger learners (4-6 week training programme), language, skills and qualities – reflect back what is important to them in their learning. World of work comes in as children must apply – selection process. Fosters commitment, understanding communication skills.
- Resilient kids P1, 4 & 7 Mrs Heggie – understand emotions and strategies to manage emotions. Shared some feedback from children.
- Lots to celebrate – learner leadership and empowering young people, develops skills and confidence. Few roles in school – expect to see children in coloured bibs – Buddies playground & lunch, Nurture Ambassadors, etc.
- Established a new award in school as well as Big Book of Praise, certificate of achievement – demonstrate values - #powerofPleas Values Award
- House action plans – house captains responsible to lead school improvements – how good is our school document – each house different responsibility – identify strengths. New action plans developed (on display in dining room). Children recognise areas for improvement – respect, name calling for example, listening skills
- Reading Leadership Group established to support work towards Reading School Silver Award.
- Events – p7 Dalguise, p5 science centre, want to be mindful of costs for trips this year... one outside school excursion – can we use public bus for example – children encouraged to get a bus pass for this – skills development for senior pupils.

This year's Improvement Plan includes:

- Review, refresh and revive school curriculum – what does learning look and feel like.
- Home learning –practising skills introduced in school – want to be a positive experience for young people.

- Nursery – working with partners to support early interventions (e.g. with S&L, vision checks etc) to get strategies in place.

Other Headteacher updates:

- Lion King – Disney Musicals in Schools Programme – staff training at least 3 year programme and hope that schools will continue themselves – back this year P5 & 6 (all current P7s participated in last year).
- Stirling library funding – digital club established – Bannockburn library Maker Space (old RBS) (8 places; another 8 next term). Primary 7 learners participating in this activity.
- Hub opening in Cowie will have a Maker Space too.
- Parent Council are supporting extra-curricular (e.g. parties)
- P5 swimming lessons – Stirling council prioritise. Mrs Moore music teacher (Tuesday), Mr Shearer PE from Jan (Tuesdays)
- New staff members - Miss Carmichael and Ms Fowler (P7)), Mrs McCallum (working with Mrs Diamond P3) and Miss Reid – pupil support assistant.

Costs of excursions

- Changes this session, P7 not having a residential as in previous years due to high cost (£300 per child for 2 nights)
- This year across learning community – adventure days – daytrip at Dalguise – experience the activities without the residential.
- 5 more opportunities to meet with learners from other schools feeding to BHS – team building, sport, STEM – transition – this is a pilot – Positive feedback. Cost and inclusive

Family Learning Event

- ~69% families attended recent family learning event

Alison – Raploch Community Partnership

- Secured 3-year funding to come to Eastern villages to set up a variety of groups that reduce loneliness and isolation
- Age range is not a factor – stay and play café at Balfour centre ~ 20 families attending. Balfour centre is not used – trying to be a key holder. This is the only thing so far.
- Discussing what could be accommodated after school in Balfour centre – give tools to help teach children at home? How to do in class at home?
- Fallin, craft and chat group at library and gardening group for school children – plant veg.
- Plean is next village earmarked for a hub. Establish a trust – survey coming for young people to complete – what do young people want in the village? Set up projects that are sustainable. Ideas welcome! Knitting, café for elderly, buggy walk, soup and a social, netball and football, karate, dance tasters, brownies, active schools and active Stirling. Happy hearts and feelgood Friday – well being sessions. MacRobert – use Balfour centre as a cinema...

Election of parent council office bearers & committee members

- Mrs Duff informed that she has given notice to her employer and will be leaving EPS to take on a new challenge by training as a Police Officer. Congratulations Emma
- Nominations for office bearers were invited (& seconded) – the following positions were confirmed:
 - Chair – Emma Duff temporary (maintain Facebook page)

- Vice Chair – Alison McInnes, Leigh Orffer
- Treasurer – Lorna Hardie
- Secretary – Susan Rutherford / Sarah Currie
- Committee members – Alison Ewing, Adrian Sinclair, Gill Ray, Ian Paterson, Joanne Devine, Louise Horsburgh , Carly Norris, Morag Rendall
- Every parent is a member of school parent forum – all parents have a voice even though not attending parent council meetings.

Next meeting:

Generally, first Monday of month for PTA meetings – 7pm (next meeting Monday 03 Oct, 7pm) Events coming up: Halloween party / disco – 27 Oct – times to be confirmed

Fundraising suggestions – need to confirm action plan at next meeting:

- Silent disco – Raploch Community Partnership and 50 headsets – this could be an idea for a separate fundraiser
- Selling raffle tickets at organised events – Clansman?
- Raffle a voucher – A Nu Beauty? Ask Nicola Wood