



Calderwood Parent Council Meeting: Minutes

Date: 18 January 2022

Time: 18:00

Present: Miss Burton (Head Teacher)
Miss Miller (Principal Teacher)
David Inglis (Meeting Chair)
Jenni Bell (Vice Chair)
Stacey Webster (Treasurer)
Kate Grieve (Vice Treasurer)
Euan Alexander (Mull rep)
Jo Ferguson (Ness rep)
Toni Glen (Bluebell rep)
Lynne Spinks (Ben Lawers rep)
Amie Cruickshank (Orkney rep)
Laura Hynd

Apologies: Tim Ozdemir (Chair)
Emma Gray (Secretary)
Lisa Gibson (Vice Secretary)

1. Welcome, Register and Apologies

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted the apologies.

2. Minutes and Actions from Previous Meeting

Actions relating to Christmas were discharged. The Chair congratulated and thanked Jenni Bell and the supporting team for their efforts with the Christmas fundraising.

Other actions:

(Action Log Ref 1) Parent Council (PC) messenger chat, completed by Kate Grieve: Discharged.

(2) Regular Headteacher/ Clan Reps meeting to be set up – Miss Burton – Carried forward

(3) Parent Council Constitution – Tim Ozdemir: Carried forward

(4) Homework clarification – addressed in email Miss Burton, on agenda for this meeting: Carried forward

(5) Road Safety – Miss Burton in contact with Health & Safety and West Lothian Council (WLC) - Carried forward

(6) Family Champions – Kate Grieve and Toni Glen attended initial welcome call: Discharged

(12) Pick Up/ Drop Off – Info re-sent to parents, new arrangements working more smoothly and included as reminder in newsletter – Miss Burton: Discharged

3. Head Teacher Update

Miss Burton reflected on the first Christmas at Calderwood and gave thanks to the Council for helping to organise and fundraise. There was lots of good feedback from families – photos, videos and Sway content well received and good to share with wider families. Burns Poem competition upcoming. New traditions – and a legacy: 3 trophies to be presented to children which will be presented annually. Scottish music/ dancing talent events as well. Recent news – 4th March will be official school opening – WLC to organise who will open, and what attendance/ schedule will look like. School lunches free up to P5 Scot Govt directive. Teaching staff meeting; raised that children's snack content/ habits could be improved, to maybe run a campaign with children and include in newsletter. House system up and running – Clan Certificates at end of week for children who excel with learning or go above and beyond.

Miss Miller – Nursery update – split into three groups, thanks to Clan Reps who met and supported the changes from WLC guidance. If there are changes Clan Reps will be engaged again to help communicate. Impact of groups has helped to create a variety of activities and greater mix of interactions. Jo Ferguson commended the approach of the initial call and progress.

4. Chair Update

The Meeting Chair explained that work is ongoing to research the PC constitution and options for the structure which would be shared.

5. Treasurer Update

(Spreadsheet of accounts is available on request)

Income:

£2,257.00 - Raffle

Expenditure:

£907.84 - Christmas decorations, gifts and other Christmas items

Account Balance:

£1,349.16

Jenni Bell asked a question about how the PC manages payment/ budget approvals. Treasurer explained that quotes can be presented to the main PC group, and if there are no substantial objections then approval is given.

6. Homework

The Chair relayed that there is a feeling among parents that homework grids aren't conducive to home learning and don't always reflect what seems to be covered in class. Miss Burton explained that the home learning grids/ Seesaw grids were an initial step, but it sounds like there is an expectation for a more direct relationship between content covered in class and activities taken home. Jo Ferguson passed on feedback from Ness: tasks are reliant on parent input which can cause pressure. Miss Burton suggested that tasks could be more relaxed, optional and topic-based choices. Ben Lawers feedback was looking for more regularity. Kate Grieve asked if the teachers have received any feedback from children. Miss Burton said that the children enjoy the aspect of sharing what they have done and one option could be to give a bank of suggestions for how parents could engage with the content. Miss Burton said that teachers could explore giving feedback via Seesaw more quickly. The Chair acknowledged that it was a big subject and that the conversation would continue.

7. Physical Education (P.E.)

The Chair relayed parent questions about whether specific skills were being taught in P.E. Miss Miller – explained the approaches, including Progressive Plans with four core skill areas. Miss Miller said she would share details in the newsletter about specifics to help to inform parents about P.E. activities. Miss Burton explained that the school could consider a PE teacher role for next year once staff number allocations are planned. Request for any interested PE teachers to email to office.

8. Seesaw/ Teams

The Chair relayed that some parents felt that Seesaw and Teams are not being used as well as they could be for updates – such as the announcements section in Seesaw for events (like Burns celebrations). Miss Burton updated on the teachers' in service day exploration of profiling and the purpose of various platforms, and how often things should be shared and where. The children were asked their learning and sharing preferences. The output will be greater clarification about how different applications are used, what they are used for and when, and how they are used by different year groups. Clarification: Seesaw permission slips can be requested and submitted by parents for sharing of photographs of their children.

9. Covid

The Chair relayed a parent's question: What information is being given to children when there are Covid absences, or other questions from the children about the issue?

Miss Burton explained that although teachers couldn't share details of individual absences with others, they do explain what current guidelines are when normal activities are affected.

10. Playground

The Chair relayed a parent's questions: What's the scope to extend the cycle shelter? Any plans for playground games or toys?

Miss Burton has raised the cycle shelter extension with the WLC. Funding is available at the start of each year, but window has passed for 2022. If council doesn't progress the request this year, then we can either explore self-funding or wait until 2023 for the next funding window. Children had looked at what toys they would like for the playground - Playground zones include an active area, quiet zone (library, drawing, chalks), amphitheatre – awaiting delivery of music player/ speaker. Try to open the football pitch when staffing allows. Playground marking not currently in plan. P4 – P6 share responsibilities for distributing and collecting toys

11. School Bullying Policy

The Chair relayed a parent's question: Does the school have its own policy (separate to the WLC), and what does it do in regards to this?

Miss Miller explained the Building Positive Relationships programme they are building and that elements of bullying are covered in the school's established wellbeing curriculum – more specific, use WLC as guidance. Addressing underlying issues and how children approach inappropriate behaviours. Children know about wellbeing indicators and how to talk about issues using these tools – they can take any concerns to a Trusted Champion that they've nominated so that an appropriate response. Social skill groups, nurture groups at lunchtimes, recently launched building resilience and using emotion words. Would also take part in anti-bullying weeks, and supporting displays and other activities. Children are encouraged to resolve issues with each other using frameworks, with staff. Any specific bullying incidents recorded on SEEMIS (West Lothian school recording system) with relevant details, actions etc. to be shared with parents.

12. School Trips

The Chair relayed a parent's question: When the restrictions ease, will there be school trips/ camp for P7?

Miss Burton – starting point is considering funding to support trips. Transport is largest cost. Would be great to do by end of year, but would need consultation on details. Was going to be a P7 West Calder camp trip pre-Covid – to be revisited but unlikely this year. Camps usually funded by parents – via installation payments (start more than 6 months in advance, consideration of subsidising a base amount and also where financial support required for parents/ guardian. Example of costs: 2 nights £150 - £200. Up to £300 for older children and longer duration) Conversation to be revisited as guidelines on restrictions are updated.

13. Electronic Payments

The Chair relayed a parent's question: Scope to use IPay (similar) to pay for payments for events, donations etc.?

Miss Burton – IPay is minimum £5. Discussion on various options including card payments and online payments. To be explored further in conjunction with possible Parent Council move for charity status.

14. Any Other Business

Jenni Bell relayed a parent's question: Can you give an update on after school activities?

Miss Burton – Music after school clubs is currently being planned and to be communicated soon. Miss Miller – awaiting guidance updates for the active after school clubs to be confirmed.

Lynne Spinks – asked for the agenda to be shared prior to future meetings. The Chair agreed that this should be done.

15. Next Meetings

Jenni Bell – suggested there should be Clan Reps meeting soon. Miss Burton proposed 1st March. Miss Burton to action.

Miss Burton – proposed and agreed: PC meeting w/c 15th March 1830hrs

Fundraising meeting – 22nd February proposed. Jenni Bell to action.