



## **PARENT COUNCIL**

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### **MINUTES**

#### **BEARSDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL (PC)**

**THURSDAY 21st MARCH 2024 AT 7pm ON MICROSOFT TEAMS**

#### **In attendance**

Mrs Smith (Head Teacher)  
January Morgan White (JMW) (PC Chair)  
Mrs Wilson  
Miss Beattie  
Mr Prunty  
Mrs Mathieson  
Katherine Sneed (KS) (Clerk)  
Lynne Parsons (LP)  
Will Innes (WI)  
Lynne Gorman (LG)  
Claire Foss (CF)  
Bea Cunningham (BC)  
Michelle Ierna (MI)  
Alan Walker  
Wendy Wilson  
Soodeh Khaleghi  
Stuart Dickson (SD)  
Sarah Stewart

#### **1. Welcome from the Chair**

Apologies from Pauline Froggatt and Laura Snowball

#### **2. Approval of Previous Minutes**

Minutes of the previous PC meeting were approved by JMW and seconded by WI.

#### **3. Head Teacher's report – March 2024**

Mrs Smith updated the meeting, referring to her Head Teacher's report below.

#### **Head Teacher's Update –March 2024**

##### **Pupil Roll Update**

- Current role 429
- P2 and P6 are full, P1 and P4 only have catchment space. Other stages have some limited availability other than P7.
- 15 classes across the school.

##### **Staffing Update**

Primary 1	Room 9	Miss M Bryce
Primary 1	Room 10	Mrs. N Johnston
Primary 1	Room 4	Miss J Williamson

Primary 2	Room 3	Mrs C Rae
Primary 2	Room 5	Miss E Stewart
Primary 3	Room 2	Miss L Graham
Primary 3	Room 1	Miss R Higgins
Primary 4	Room 6	Miss A Thomson
Primary 4	Room 15	Miss A Mackenzie
Primary 5	Room 14	Mrs. L MacKay
Primary 5	Room 19	Miss N Beattie/ Mrs A Govenden
Primary 6	Room 12	Mr D McGregor
Primary 6	Room 20	Mr P Prunty
Primary 7	Room 13	Mrs N Boyd
Primary 7	Room 17	Miss K Jaycock

RCCT Mrs G Bell  
RCCT Mr A Findlay  
RCCT Mrs. E Capaldi  
RCCT Mrs K Reid  
RCCT Ms S Gray  
RCCT Mrs K MacPherson  
RCCT/Teaching Kitchen Mrs L McGonagle

Principal Teacher – Miss N Beattie  
Depute Head Teacher – Mrs. A Wilson  
Depute Head Teacher - Mrs. A Mathieson  
Head Teacher – Mrs. C Smith

### **School Improvement Plan**

Our priorities are:

- Embedding Inclusion, wellbeing and equality
- Curriculum Rationale
- Play into Enquiry and IDL

We have been using assemblies to look at diversity and all classes have had input on Martin Luther King Day, Ramadan and Mother Language Day. At Parents Night we gathered examples of 'Welcome' in all different languages and are displaying this as you enter the school. Our next tasks are looking at how we use Rights to ensure we are addressing all the protected characteristics within the classes, ensuring that it is age/ stage appropriate.

We have almost completed the Curriculum Rationale to share with all within the school. Teachers have been updating our Learning and Teaching Policy to bring this into line with how we have changed this in the past few years taking account of Play and Pupil Enquiry.

### **Early Years Centre**

We have 154 children enrolled across the whole centre. We have 114 3-5's, 40 2-3's (at the moment). We will be at full capacity once allocated children have started, so these numbers will increase. We are interviewing tomorrow for a permanent Senior and appointed a new clerical assistant last week.

### **Centre Improvement Plan**

This session we will be focusing on the following:

- Ensuring high quality experiences underpinned by the rights of the child.
- Family Partnerships
- Curriculum

*Ensuring high quality experiences underpinned by the rights of the child*

We have continued to develop the garden, buying new resources and equipment. We were successful for a Flight Path Fund which will help source literacy equipment for the garden area.

*Family partnerships*

Bookbug sessions have taken place and were really well attended. We are organising an Easter Café for parents. Parents have also established their own Fundraising Group and have organised a competition for Easter.

### *Curriculum*

The children in the EYC have been giving their opinions on the curriculum rationale and it's almost ready to share too. The next steps are to revise the Vision, Values and Aims and we hope to do this at the Easter Café with parents.

### **Facilities Management:**

- The Council meeting is 26th March for future updates on the project. Hopefully we will be aware fully of next stage then. It is available to watch online via the Council's YouTube channel and the papers are available on the Council committee diary 7 days before the meeting.
- The Parent Council are going to summarise the main points from the papers in their discussion point.

### **Events and Successes**

- Fairtrade Pupil Participation Group held their tuckshops this week. They trialled a different format which seems to have been a success!
- Sports Pupil Participation Group have been running tennis club for the P1-3 children.
- STEM week- Every class in the school had a visit from Francis from charity "Make it Happen" to launch their design an app competition. She will be back next week to collect the entries and we'll hear back soon about the winner.  
Every upper school class will have a STEM visitor before the Easter holidays. If anyone knows anyone who would visit the P1-3 classes, please get in touch with Mr Prunty. Huge thanks to Mr Prunty for organising all the visits.
- P7 have had a busy week with children representing the school at Rotary Quiz and Debating. Well done to all the children involved.
- P6 children represented the school in the Euroquiz at Craigdhu Primary this morning.
- P4 have had their block of percussion from Mr Barclay and will perform for their parents next week.
- We have had trips for P5 to Science Centre, P2 to the Sealife Centre, P3 Vikingar, P4 to Whitelee Windfarm. P6 are heading to New Lanark next week and P1 will be going to Finlaystone Park in May. Huge thanks to FRG for helping subsidise the costs of the trips by contributing to buses.
- P7 Rm 13 One of our P7 classes took part in a STEM competition run by ASSET (Aero Space Scientific Educational Trust). We had 2 drones to use to complete a series of challenges and the children are able to choose areas of the challenge which are of interest to them. We have trained drone pilots and engineers to help set up and fly the drone in order to complete the challenges.  
We were then thrilled to have Easyjet and Glasgow Airport involved and the children are able to see how their drones fit into aviation work, and experience different careers available in this field. This experience could not be replicated in the classroom and will inspire children into careers in STEM.

### **Questions/Comments from Head Teacher's Report**

CF asked when incoming P1 parents will find out confirmation of places. Mrs Smith confirmed that this would be normally after Easter holidays.

## **4. School Refurbishment**

KS confirmed that the Council meeting re budgets is 26<sup>th</sup> March and the Planning Board meeting re the Planning, Listed Building Consent and Conservation Area Consent applications for the school proposals is 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024. All applications are recommended for approval and KS to circulate the relevant reports.

KS read the following sections of the Budget papers:

*“6.54 Work continues to progress the Bearsden and Milngavie Primary School Refurbishment projects through the pre-construction phase, with each project being developed on the basis of a full decant of the existing primary schools to sites at Bearsden Academy and Oakburn Park, Milngavie. Planning applications for decant facilities were approved in December 2023 and full detailed applications are Page 298 Report: EDC/005/24/AD: Appendix 6 East Dunbartonshire Forward in Partnership Corporate Asset Management Plan and 30-Year Capital Investment Plan Report: EDC/005/24/AD – Appendix 6 26 March 2024 Page 21 of 28 projected to be considered by the Planning Board in March 2024. Both projects have experienced challenges in recent months; there are continuing difficulties in securing access to adjacent property to demolish the existing dining hall at Bearsden Primary School which remains a risk to the project; and the proposed design of the Early Years facility at Milngavie Primary School is in the process of being revised to deliver a facility in keeping with surrounding properties following detailed discussions with colleagues in Planning. Members should note the Early Years facility will not form part of the application being considered by Planning at Board in March but will be presented for consideration at a later date.*

*6.57 On the 14th December 2023, Council considered Report No. EDC/022/023/AD which included a specific recommendation to defer entering into contracts to provide decant facilities for the Milngavie and Bearsden Primary School refurbishment projects pending consideration of the general fund revenue and capital budgets in February 2024 (now March). Given the increase in project costs, specific challenges associated with delivering both projects, and the significant cost to provide decant accommodation, officers would recommend that both projects are progressed in line with the revised process stated in section 4 through the preconstruction phase and once final projects costs are established that these are reported to Committee for further consideration for inclusion of the projects within the capital programme.*

*6.58 Separately, officers have assessed costs for the replacement of the existing roof, windows and doors at Bearsden Primary School as a stand-alone project pending funding being available to deliver the larger refurbishment project. It is recognised that these works cannot be paused and should be progressed as far as practicably possible and as soon as possible. Members should note that a replacement of the existing roof will take longer than a summer recess and this does present an operational challenge to deliver in full whilst the school remains operational therefore this work may span several school holiday periods. The cost to deliver these works is currently estimated to be £2m however this is subject to change. This sum has provisionally been included in the programme for 2024/25 but this remains provisional, and progress/expenditure remains subject to completion of the Page 299 Report: EDC/005/24/AD:”*

WI asked whether the school had received any feedback as a result of the PC letter to the Chief Executive. Mrs Smith confirmed she had received no feedback.

KS to monitor for the outcome of the meetings next week and report back to the Parent Council.

## **5. Road Safety**

JMW confirmed that the PC and FRG wished to note their condolences to the family and friends of the lady that died in the accident at Manse Road/Drymen Road.

SD asked to attend the PC meeting as a former member of the Parent Council and given his previous, and ongoing, actions in relation to road safety in the area.

SD gave a summary of his previous actions and outcomes of raising road safety concerns with the Council. His presentation from 2020 is attached.

JMW thanks SD for attending the meeting. She explained that there has been numerous incidences of cars driving through the crossing when the crossing patrol people are stopping traffic. Mr Goodall is contacting the Council to see whether it is possible to have body cameras so these incidences can be recorded and reported.

CF confirmed that following recent events a WhatsApp group called Safer Streets Bearsden has been set up and that there is a meeting taking place on Tues 26<sup>th</sup> March to agree a co-ordinated and strategic plan for seeking local improvements from the Council. SD confirmed he would be attending that meeting and would be happy to share his 2020 presentation again.

JMW confirmed that the PC welcomes the actions of the Group but the PC cannot join as a body, however it is of course open to parents to join individually.

CF asked whether the PC could promote the school getting involved with banners, poster competitions, walking buses etc. JMW confirmed that this would be through the school rather than the PC. Mrs Smith confirmed that they like to promote such initiatives through the children's committee in the school and have a Road Safety Officer. Mrs Smith happy to put them in touch.

WI thanked SD for his presentation and summarised that there are 3 main areas for improving the road safety in the area:

- Physical infrastructure
- Driver behaviour
- Pedestrian/cyclist behaviour

He suggested it may be useful for the school to update parents on what the school is already doing on road safety.

MI asked what happened recently with a boy being in an accident near the school and whether any learnings from that. Mrs Smith confirmed that the incident was nothing to do with the school; the boy was from another school, outwith school premises and hours, and with both his parents. Therefore there was no place for the school to comment.

KS stated that we need to be careful that we don't assume we know the reasons for and responsibility of accidents in the area. We need to focus on wider measures to improve road safety.

BC commented that another area of concern she has noticed in parents parking on the double yellow lines adjacent to the Post Office and pulling in outside the school to drop kids off. Parents therefore need to take responsibility for their own actions.

Mrs Smith was aware of this issue and said that it is not in their jurisdiction to legislate for parent actions however she would put a reminder in the newsletter. JMW asked if this could also include reminding parents to use the correct entrance for the car park.

CF said that she is collating local concerns raised through the Safer Streets Bearsden group and she confirmed that all these issues were on the list.

A message from the chat asked about crossing patrols and the times they attend, and whether there could be another crossing patrol at the junction of Manse Road/Drymen Road. Mrs Smith said she has no control over the provision of crossing patrols and encouraged parents to contact the Council. She would also point out that anyone attending school late is encouraged to use the formal crossing points.

JMW said she would action contacting the Council on behalf of the PC regarding crossing patrols.

## 6. Matters Arising

None

## 7. AoB

### Parent Council Meetings

JMW said she had been asked whether it would be possible to schedule the PC meetings for the full school year. JMW said that this has previously been done, however with the school refurbishment and Council meetings over the last year or so, we have decided to be more responsive with scheduling meetings. We may look to schedule meetings for the school year of 2024/2025.

### Potential for composite classes

JMW said that it had been raised with her about the potential for a composite class for the P2s in the forthcoming school year. Mrs Smith said that no decision would be taken on this until the numbers of the new P1s has been confirmed. She reiterated that all classes in the school are in a way composite as teachers cater for the needs and ages of all children in their classes. Mrs Smith considers this a positive and not a concern for parents.

CF asked if communication around the reality of the implications of a composite class would be provided to parents and reassurance given? Mrs Smith said if composite classes were to be progressed then this would be in no way a detriment to the pupils and their learning.

WW stated she had concerns about P1s and P2s mixing. Mrs Smith said this is already happening with P1 and P2 pupils mixing through the 'play to learn' environment that the school adopts successfully. She reiterated that she does not yet know whether there will be formal composite classes or not.

WI asked whether, once the position is confirmed, there would be communication to parents. Mrs Smith confirmed that there would be a parent session and leaflets provided.

### Religion teaching in school

JMW raised that she had been asked about whether there is a strong focus on Christianity in the school, whereas it should be more general given we are a non-denominational school.

Mrs Smith confirmed that Rev. Wilson is the only religious leader that attends the school at present. She has written to other religious leaders and none have taken up the request. She would love to have other leaders attend the school.

She also confirmed that, despite this, pupils do learn about all religions over their seven years at primary school. She asked that if any PC members have any contacts then please let the school know, she will also put a further request in the weekly news.

CF suggested that some of the staff at the Afterschool Club may be willing to assist as they run some learning sessions within the Club. Mrs Smith said she would contact them to see if any interest.

### Smartphone Free Childhood

JMW has been asked what the school can do to promote smartphone free childhoods. Mrs Smith confirmed that she needs to remain impartial on this matter as some parents may not agree with this. She confirmed that the school do educate pupils on online safety and the Police ran a recent workshop with Parents, as well as confirming that pupils are not allowed to have their phones during the school day.

### Susan Murray (Lib Dem candidate for forthcoming Scottish Parliament elections) newsletters

Concern was raised by CF about Susan Murray issuing updates about the school as part of her newsletter. JMW noted the frustration but confirmed that generally the information in the newsletter was publicly available information from Council papers.

### World Book Day fundraising

A question was asked about ensuring that the sponsorship forms are issued further in advance of the event and if it could be made clearer what the children are being asked to actually do for the sponsorship. JMW confirmed that she would feedback to the FRG.

### Nursery visits

JMW said she had been asked about nursery visits and ensuring parity for incoming P1 pupils.

Mrs Smith confirmed that all incoming P1 pupils are offered 3 visits to the school. As the Bearsden Early Years Centre is connected to the school they have their visits between January and March. Then once the other places for pupils are confirmed, they are invited along to their sessions. Mrs Mathieson confirmed that letters would be going out to parents around Easter time re the visits, except for placing request parents as these wouldn't been known whether successful until later.

8. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Parent Council is Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm.