

Milngavie Primary Parent Council Meeting

Location: Milngavie Primary School

Date: 18th April 2024

Time: 6pm

Attending: Karen Reid, Mandy McCormick, Laura Henderson, Shona Houston, Susie Orell, Jane Couper, Dominique Matheson, Garry Graham, Tracy Stilwell, Debbie Docherty, Cllr Alix Mathieson

Apologies: Ian Gallagher, Cllr Jim Gibbons, Cllr Aileen Polson

Item		Action by
1.0	Open Meeting	
	KR opened the meeting welcoming everyone and noting apologies received from IG and Cllr JG, no response received from Cllr AP.	
2.0	Head Teachers report	
2.1	GG issued HT report in advance of the meeting on the 17 th April, PC members read the report and raised the following items for discussion:	
2.2	Reporting of incidents and bullying, what qualifies as an incident?	
	GG stated that all incidents are investigated. Incidents are assessed using school's criteria (4 sections) before being classified as bullying.	
Post meeting	Processes for determining if an incident is bullying issued via Xpressions app. This is on the school's website.	
2.3	Class size: smaller classes are better for educational outcomes. The report mentions 15 classes next session with large class of P1s with two teachers in the big P1 room but what will that look like going through the school? Also logistics of 15 classes in temp school?	
	GG noted that the number of classrooms has been capped at 14, this will translate into 2 P1 classes of 24 (leaving 1 space per class for children moving into the area through the year.) There will be a maximum of 48.	
2.4	Literacy/numeracy performance: 23-24 results? Consider a vote on no homework rule	
	GG noted that the NSAS data will updated when the P1 assessments were complete. KR posed the question of whether the no homework policy should be reviewed. The vote to stop homework was taken 6/7 years ago meaning most parents in the school did not have a vote. GG noted he would not advocate returning to giving homework and will circulate the research to back up why. GG/TS noted that there are checks in place to ensure any child needing extra help is given it including additional work being sent home. They noted the percentage of children currently given homework is very low. They also noted the dyslexia and dyscalculia signposting has greatly improved over the last few years and they have excellent support strategies in place for children that require them.	GG
Post Meeting	Home learning update issued via Xpressions app.	

2.5	Ongoing work to school: scaffolding? safe access to Bistro?	
	<p>GG noted the scaffolding on the main building is to facilitate gutter cleaning and repairs to the windows and walls. GG confirmed he had met with Gavin Haire on the 16th April to assess the scaffolding however as yet confirmation has not been received to regarding the suitability of accessing the Bistro under the scaffolding. Currently children access the Bistro through the main school building and access passage into basement.</p> <p>GG noted that the fire exit door from the Bistro had had a padlock placed on it by contractors however it was not locked and has been removed to reinstate the fire exit prior to pupils requiring access to the Bistro. KR to contact Gavin Haire regarding both of these issues.</p> <p>Cllr AM noted there was a 42-page report detailing the immediate work required to MPS, GG noted some of this had been carried out over the Easter holidays.</p> <p>GG/TS noted areas of mould are being addressed, hence the scaffolding. AM raised the potential health risk of mould to children but GG confirmed the mould is not currently in an area accessed by children. When asked, GG noted both buildings do suffer water ingress, particularly during severe weather.</p> <p>Cllr AM noted that there is no money in budget and that there are significant procurement issues in particular in relation to works requiring a specialist contractor. Cllr AM will seek further clarification.</p>	<p>KR</p> <p>Cllr AM</p>
Post meeting	KR emailed GH & GB re scaffolding.	
2.6	Papers for comment	
	<p>GG noted he would finalise the papers over summer and issue for comment in August as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting Learners Needs report: KR - Health & Wellbeing report: SH - Accessibility: SO 	<p>GG</p> <p>KR</p> <p>SH</p> <p>SO</p>
2.7	Additional	
	<p>GG noted MPS were working with Glasgow Uni on a literacy and drama program for P5 in conjunction with Hopscotch Theatre.</p> <p>GG noted the response to the QR code regarding feedback at pupil progress meetings received 3 responses. This was also issued on xpressions.</p> <p>PEF spending: GG directed the Council to the school's planning for PEF spending. Feedback was sought. There was agreement to proceed.</p>	
3.0	Parent Council Report	
3.1	Sports Award update	

	<p>SH met with Mrs Anderson and the P7 sports ambassadors. In order to achieve the sports gold award there needs to be more clubs offered to P1P3 and also more parental involvement with sports and well-being. SH will do some workshops on physio and spines and has also organised 30minute yoga sessions for infants.</p> <p>SH noted that the P7 sports ambassadors were very organised having surveyed P5-P7 on what sports they wanted provided and that they were also planning fundraising for additional gym equipment.</p> <p>SH will also arrange some assemblies on health and wellbeing.</p> <p>SH noted Bearsden ski-club had offered 4 week blocks of skiing as an afterschool club. GG noted the office would follow up on this and will coordinate the club which will be offered from P1 upwards.</p> <p>Fun-run: Noted Kat Wilson and Fiona Cuthbertson will take over organising and running the school fun-run. JC noted she had everything KW & FC would need for the run and would contact them to pass on. GG/TS suggested the run could take place on Friday 21st June, but will be flexible to meet the schedule of the organisers.</p>	<p>SH</p> <p>SH</p> <p>MPS Office</p> <p>JC</p>
Post meeting	KW noted the date of the fun-run was still to be confirmed.	
3.2	Music Award update	
	KR noted two parents Jo Buckley and Hazel Wilson had met with Jenny Ramsey to discuss the music award application and provide suggestions to meet the requirement for community engagement.	
3.3	Science update	
	MC noted she would contact Andrew Rossi to discuss arranging some science activities in conjunction with two parents who have offered their expertise, Andy Buckley and Jamie McCormick.	MC
3.4	After school clubs	
	KR noted the PC would issue a flyer to all parents requesting help to provide some additional clubs, activities or assemblies. KR noted she was hoping to arrange a lego club for P2s before the summer holidays.	KR
3.5	Parent Forum meeting 19th March	
	KR noted she had attended the virtual Parent Forum meeting on the 19 th March which had a presentation entitled Education Service Plan Priorities 2024 – 2027 which will be circulated to members of the PC. KR noted it had been difficult to give feedback on the presentation in the 10 minutes allocated to discuss it in break out rooms and that the priorities seemed good there wasn't anything tangible on how these aims would be achieved. Any comments the PC have on the presentation can be fed back at the next parent forum meeting in June.	KR
3.6	Refurbishment update	

	<p>KR noted that although the school refurbishment and temporary school had both been approved by the planning board, the nursery building application had been withdrawn as the planning department advised they could not approve the demolition of the caretaker's cottage.</p> <p>The nursery is currently being re-designed by Holmes Miller. KR noted the caretaker's cottage had previously been deemed unsuitable to be developed as a nursery by HM and noted she would contact Gavin Haire and Greg Bremner and ask for an update on the re-design. MC noted perhaps the</p>	KR
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	<p>ground around the cottage could be incorporated into the playground area to relieve the pressure on space in the playground.</p> <p>The council budget meeting on the 26th March advised that "with the ongoing challenging borrowing situation of high interest rates combined with exorbitant build costs, we've agreed to progress our current capital projects through the pre-construction phase which will allow officers to present more accurate projected build costs to Council for decision prior to entering into construction contracts."</p> <p>Cllr AM noted she felt it was likely that the refurbishment would continue to be delayed. KR noted Councillor Gibbons had offered to meet to discuss any issues he could help with and she would arrange to meet him to discuss the refurbishment.</p>	
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3.7	PC membership	
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	<p>KR noted Becca Martin had stepped down from the PC and welcomed DM to the PC. KR noted she would email MPS office a full list of the PC members including the year group represented by each member for inclusion on the school website along with the PC email address.</p>	KR
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4.0	PTA Report	
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4.1	<p>No one was available from the PTA to attend the meeting however Giselle Avenir (PTA chair) provided a detailed update which is summarised below.</p>	
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4.2	<p>A very successful pancake and marshmallow event was held on the 20th February which both allowed an informal setting for parents and teachers to chat and raised an impressive £299.</p>	
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4.3	<p>The Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel breakfast event was also enjoyed by all and greatly reduced late arrivals!</p>	
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4.4	<p>GA noted that the PTA have provided approximately £1800 in funding to MPS covering a variety of requests including the sunshine fund, nursery treat fund and the new three-year library management system supporting MPS in its aim to become a "reading school".</p>	
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4.5	<p>GA noted that disappointingly the planned parents quiz night may have to be cancelled due to insufficient tickets being sold.</p>	
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4.6	<p>On behalf of the PC KR thanked GA for the PTAs hard work throughout the year and congratulated them on their many successful events.</p>	
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5.0	Issues raised by the Parent Forum	
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5.1	Greater clarity in some of the school's communications	
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	<p>KR noted that messages require more information, particularly for parents new to the school. E.g. When parents can attend Church or when uniform is required. KR asked if it was possible to provide a calendar of events for each term? GG noted he and TS would review the procedure for checking messages prior to issued.</p> <p>Mrs Docherty, noted they were in the process of setting up expressions to use for their messaging in the Early Years, too.</p>	GG/TS
Post meeting	<p>KR had a discussion with Isobel Stadele (MPS office) and KR regarding improving communication including issuing a calendar of events for each term. IS noted it was difficult to issue a calendar of events as often events were subject to change or the school would take advantage of last minute offers to take part in events. KR suggested using the event calendar on the MPS website to show events.</p>	
5.2	Need a method of accepting electronic payments	
	<p>GG noted that the parent's portal has originally been set up to allow online payments for events but this has not been implemented. GG noted they are not able to set up their own system (in the Primary Sector). Any such system would have to be implemented centrally or given direct authorisation from EDC Education/Finance.</p>	Cllr AM
	<p>SO noted Glasgow Council now accept electronic payments through Ipay (SO subsequently advised it is through ParentPay) Cllr AM noted she would follow up on this.</p>	
5.3	Parking	
	<p>Despite the parking restrictions, implemented parking continues to be an issue with several occasions where the bus has been stuck due to inconsiderate parking. Cllr AM noted that the car free pilots were doing very well and that they were being policed to ensure fines were issued if necessary. Cllr AM noted the pilot was due to go before Committee, and once it was approved, (she is 99% sure it will be) the scheme would be rolled out to all schools in EDC including MPS.</p>	
5.4	LGBTQ assembly	
	<p>On Tuesday 16th April P4-P7 had an assembly regarding an LGBTQ charter award MPS is working towards. The following questions were raised by the parent forum contacting the PC following the assembly:</p> <p>Which charity is working with the school to provide the 'award'? How much is this costing the school? What are the training resources and will parents get to see them? Are resources/training compliant with the Cass Review which has recently been published?</p> <p>The award comes from LGBTQ Youth Scotland and aims to support inclusive education and forms part of the inclusion agenda on the curriculum. MPS are one of 40 out of 2000 primary schools in Scotland asked to take part in the pilot. All schools in EDC are encouraged to apply for the award. There is no cost to the school as the assembly was given by Lynne Kelly.</p>	

	<p>Cllr AM and MC noted they had both received several emails and messages regarding this assembly. GG noted he had reviewed the material prior to the assembly and had felt it was fine for P4-P7. GG will check with LK that she followed the script as outlined. GG noted that all assemblies follow the curriculum for excellence and that there was no requirement to opt out of the assembly as it was an assembly on inclusion.</p> <p>It was noted that more detail would be appreciated on what is being taught and better communication of what is involved in achieving the award is required.</p>	GG
	Lynne Kelly will work with the new Equalities group to feedback to parents in the same way they do for Rights Respecting Schools.	
5.5	Period education	
	LH noted period education needed to be updated and better advice regarding the options available was required. Currently Laura MacFarlane teaches sex education to all primary classes through the science curriculum. GG noted LMcF was available on Wednesday 2:30 to discuss with parents the content of the sex education talks. LH noted she would email MPS the feedback she has gathered, GG noted this would be useful to start a discussion.	LH
	HT asked that LH and any other interested party meet with the school to arrange a system that is appropriate, as we are unsure as to what changes are required.	
6.0	Date next meeting	
	KR suggested a final PC meeting in June before the end of term, date to be confirmed. LH noted the preferred date for the AGM was August/September of the new term to allow parents new to the school to be involved. KR to discuss AGM with the PTA.	KR