

Castlehill Primary School Parent Council Meeting – 25 April 2024
Draft minutes

Meeting at Bearsden Academy at 7:30. Chair: Gemma Kemp.

Attendees: Stephanie Baynham, Marianne Charrier, Katherine Currie, Jayne Daly, Alice Hall (Secretary), Natalie Harper, Gail Hunter, Aimée Kelly, Gemma Kemp (Co-Chair), Clare McCafferty, Lesley McLean (DH), Dilshod Makhmadshoev, Katie Reid (Co-Chair), Mandy Thompson (HT).

1. Apologies: Gayle Campbell, Andrea Ferguson, Kasia Kelly, Alastair Muir.
2. Review minutes of 1 February meeting: The minutes for the last meeting were approved. The books requested by a couple of classes had been bought, Alice had provided costings for new sand and cover for the sandpit, and Stephanie had done research into non-plastic toys for the summer BBQ. On the mural, the HT said that the school would prefer to hold off on a design until the new school values were launched.
3. Head Teacher Report:
 - Health and Safety: The HT said vandalism had taken place in the school over the previous weekend. Children had been using nursery bikes, broken the tennis nets and written sexualised language all over the pitch. CCTV had unfortunately been unable to pick up any footage of the vandals, with only one working and none of the three cameras covering the pitch; the school was now investigating getting a new camera. In discussion, Council members asked about putting a fence around the pitch. It was noted that this would stop children from using it for play outside school hours and so was not the preferred option, but that the threat of blocking off the pitch might help discourage further vandalism. On more positive news, the HT said a defibrillator had now been installed on the main gates to the staff car park. It has been publicised widely in the local news and radio, and there were plans to do some workshops with pupils in school and have an information stall at the Summer Fayre. Discussions with the Council had also paved the way for similar approaches in other schools. Council members asked the HT to pass on their thanks to her niece, who had raised the funds for the defibrillator.
 - Classes and staffing update: The school role was now 211 with 185 children in mainstream and 26 in the ELR. A number of new teachers had started, with two more due to go on maternity leave in the summer. A further teacher – Miss Clougherty – had got married at Easter and would be known as Mrs McGinley after the summer. 39 pupils were enrolled in P1 for the coming session, including two in the ELR. The proposed class structure was two P1 classes, with single classes in the other year groups (with P2 and P7 both being full).
 - I Heart Programme (P6): This was a resilience programme which had been run in 10 sessions (twice weekly over five weeks) with the P6 class. The children had discussed how to feel more confident and

cope with challenges and feedback suggested they had found it very useful.

- PE uniform: A survey had been issued to parents through the February and March Newsletters, collating views on introducing a PE uniform - rather than the current arrangement where children come to school on PE days with active wear of their choosing, excluding football garments. 39 of the 61 responses received had indicated a preference for the current system. Council members asked if rugby tops would be acceptable and the HT said no tops associated with sports teams should be worn for PE.
- School improvement plan update:
 - The first priority was 'Raising Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy through engagement in the moderation cycle'. Over the year, all teaching staff had engaged in workshops looking at and moderating aspects of learning and teaching (including 'in the moment' formative assessment and effective use of learning intentions), sharing good practice and establishing consistent expectations across the school. The had also explored their own class data stories to identify issues affecting attainment in their class. Part-time teachers had worked additional days in November-December running targeted interventions groups to support specific children. In the ELR, staff had undertaken an audit of their learning environments and pupils' participation in order to better understand aspects impacting on anxiety and engagement. It was planned to roll out a similar approach in the school and nursery in the coming year.
 - The second priority was 'Developing progressive and relevant skills progressions in Expressive Arts'. Progressive planners were now completed and ready to be implemented next session in Drama, Art, Music and Dance.
 - The third priority was 'Reviewing and refreshing Castlehill's Vision, Values and Aims to reflect our status as a Gold Rights Respecting School in consultation with all stakeholders'. Valuable feedback from the consultation with pupils and parents had led to development of a new vision, values and aims which would be further taken forward next year. There was a lot of support for the Captain Integrity superhero but new ones would be designed for Acceptance and Kindness.
- 4. Fundraising Group Report: Alice said the Easter Trail had been a big success with high levels of participation and just under £1000 raised. The next event would be the summer BBQ on 1 June. The Baptist church had again offered to run the BBQ and there would be a range of activities and stalls including face painting, glitter tattoos and henna; pick and mix sweets and slushy drinks; beat the goalie, an obstacle course and dunk the teacher; and live music, defibrillator demonstrations and a visit from Milngavie fire station. Alice also noted that Lee Worrall, one of the parents in the school, had an old PA from his work which he was happy to pass on to the school if helpful.

5. Report from Parent Forum meeting: Gemma reported back on the recent Parent Forum meeting on 19th March which had focused on the Education Service Plan Priorities for 2024 – 2027. These were: Placing the human needs and rights of every child and young person at the centre of education; Improvement in children and young people's health and wellbeing; Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children and young people; Improvement in skills and sustained, positive leaver destinations for all young people; and Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy.
6. Discussion of issues arising
 - a. New sand and cover for sandpit: There was a discussion of the costings Alice had provided for new sand and a cover for the sandpit and it was agreed this would be a good thing for the Council to fund. However it was noted that there may be risks in taking this forward right now given the recent spate of vandalism and the approaching school holidays, when the sandpit would not be supervised. It was therefore agreed to purchase the new equipment for the start of the new school year (**Action: Alice**). There may also be scope to include the children in clearing out the sandpit ready for the new sand.
 - b. Indoor/outdoor trainers for PE: There was a discussion of the request for pupils to keep additional indoor trainers at school for use in the gym hall. It was noted that it could be costly for families to buy two pairs of trainers. Plimsolls offered a cheaper alternative and it was agreed it would be helpful for the school to encourage this option (**Action: HT**).
 - c. Puzzle challenge day: Council members discussed the possibility of paying for the school to participate in a puzzle challenge day. It was agreed that, whilst this looked like a great experience, it was probably too expensive for the number of children who would benefit – with costs being higher as the company was based in England. There would though be value in exploring similar opportunities run locally. Natalie also flagged the events for schools being organised as part of the Edinburgh Book Festival and it was agreed this would be a good opportunity for the senior teachers to consider (**Action: HT to flag to senior teachers**).
7. Any Other Competent Business: The Early Learning Centre (ELC) had asked if the Parent Council could fund t-shirts for their graduation and a sofa for the new family room. It was agreed to fund both items but Natalie suggested that the ELC look first at buying a second hand sofa from a charity shop (**Action: Katie to follow up with the ELC**). It was also agreed to fund leavers ties and a contribution to the leavers meal for the P7 class, and new mats for the PE hall. On the latter, the school had found some initial options but Katie offered to see if there cheaper versions available (**Action: Katie**).

A parent had also asked if the school could provide lockable bike sheds for the children to store bikes and scooters during the day. Council members felt the existing bike racks were currently sufficient but it was agreed that the Parent Council should fund a number of spare bike locks in the new school year to be kept in the school office (**Action: Alice**)

8. Future meetings: Provisional bookings made with East Dunbartonshire Council for 12 September, 21 November, 30 January and 24 April.