

PC Meeting 28th August 2024

Present: Pip Shiels, Kirsten Patience, Megan Hicklin, Emma Fuller, Nicola Ihmig, Adele Murphy, Sara Shaw, Turid Engstrom, Barbara Macdonald, Sarah Mcnee, Mary Turner, Lyndsey **Roberton**.

Apologies: Amanda Blainey, Ashley Mackenzie, Carl John

Minutes for Wednesday 28th August 2024

1. Welcome and apologies

2. Chairperson's report: Chairperson's report for the Parent Council AGM – 28th August 2024 (PS)

What a quick year it has been – again! It has been another successful year for Parent Council. In some ways it doesn't feel like as much has been achieved as had been in some of the previous years, but I think that is because we have spent a few years setting different things up, or different ways of working, and these are continuing to run. We have been working with Parent Council subgroups for a few years now and this continues to work really well. Mrs Patience now selects the areas that subgroups will cover, in line with the School Improvement plan and in discussion with me. The groups for the last school year were Health & Wellbeing/UNCRC, Equality for Everyone, After School Clubs, and 100 years of KPS. Each group made progress with the area they were working on and were good examples of joint working between the school staff and the wider school community.

The support group for parents and carers of care experienced children or those with additional support needs, which began in the 2022/23 school year continued through last year and was appreciated by those that came along to it. It was also able to feed ideas and suggestions into the school via the Equality for Everyone group. The support group will continue to run monthly through this school year.

Having reflected on attendance at social events in the previous school year we decided to just hold one Parent Council Social last year, at the beginning of the school year. It was well attended and successfully kick started the campaign to save PSA. PSA is the fundraising parent group and it had been struggling with numbers for several years, with no-one willing to take on the office bearer roles latterly. I was delighted that people volunteered to take on the office bearer roles, a good number of people came forward to join the committee and PSA was saved. It has been wonderful to see all that they have managed to do this year.

We have lots to cover this evening, so I have kept my report short, however before I finish I would like to thank Fiona Wright for all the work she has done over the last couple of years as our secretary. The minutes don't write themselves and I am grateful for all the hours she has put into producing such full minutes for us. If I am elected as Chair again, then this coming year will be my last as Chair. My son is in p6 this year and I would like to support a new Chair in his p7 year before what will be 15 years as a parent of a child at Kirknewton Primary comes to an end!

3. Proposed Sub Groups for 2024/25 (KP):

As with previous recent years we have identified 4 subgroups for parents and staff to work together in. These are:

1. **Cost of the School Day**- A short term group consultation to look at reducing the school day cost for parents **and** carers. How can we do this better and get this right for all parents and carers. We are looking for a range of **people** from **different** backgrounds - working, single parents, home makers, so we have a range of voices. Aim to be completed by Christmas. Looking for at least 8 participants but more would be welcome.
2. **UNCRC** – Going for Gold for the school's award. Plan is to work with Mrs Murphy and Mrs Macdonald to see if we are **getting** the message of UNCRC through to the entire community of children, parents, carers and the rest of the external community. Aim to have this complete by Christmas.
3. **School Library**- we have an additional classroom as **we have a reduced number of classes this year**, so we have a **classroom we can use as a library**. Plan for parents to work with Mrs Macdonald 1-2 days to help set up this room. Additionally help will be needed to maintain this space **and to** help Mrs Murphy set up the 'Big bed time read'. **This is for nursery and p1 children and their families, ran successfully pre-covid and involves borrowing a new book bag each week.**
Volunteers- Emma Fuller
4. **Equality for Everyone**- led by Mrs Murphy **and is running for its second year. This year's goals are to help plan something for neurodiversity celebration week in March, share knowledge of other agencies and supports available for neurodivergent children and their families and work with other cluster schools to share approaches**
Volunteers- Lyndsey Robertson, Turid Engstrom, Sarah Lugton, Pip Shiels

Links for the above:

- United Nations Rights of the Child (UNCRC): <https://infograph.venngage.com/pl/7GGX1YHNCxM>
- Equality for Everyone: <https://infograph.venngage.com/pl/ni2JHIWGV88>
- Cost of the School Day: <https://infograph.venngage.com/pl/S0pTEI9EZJ8>
- Library: <https://infograph.venngage.com/pl/mJ9zSAdJHU>

Parents can volunteer for the subgroups at the PC social (Friday- 30th September, Green room 7:30) or via email to Pip at the parent council email (kirknewtonparentcouncil@gmail.com) or via the school office.

4. Election of office bearers:

- Chair- Pip Shiels nominated and seconded by Sara Shaw and Lyndsey Robertson

- Vice Chair - Amanda Blainey – nominated and seconded by Pip Shiels and Turid Engstrom
- Secretary - Isla Veal – nominated and seconded by Pip Shiels and Turid Engstrom

5. Election of Class reps

Information regarding the role of class reps have been sent round to parents via [whatsapp](#)

- Proposed reps (2024/25)
 - Nursery – Mary Turner
 - P1 – Ashley Mackenzie
 - P2 – Turid Engstrom
 - P2/3 – Samantha Winwick
 - P4 – Megan Hicklin
 - P5 – Emma Fuller
 - P6 - Sarah McNee
 - P7 - Laura Stewart

6. PSA (**Sara Shaw and Lyndsey Roberton**)

Busy last year with bringing the new committee together and various things for the 100 year celebrations. Last year PSA raised funds for technology for the school. **The money was intended to buy a new promethean board, but wonderfully the school has secured 7 promethean boards that East Calder School no longer needed. The money will therefore be spent on other technology that the school will benefit from.**

PSA is currently in the process of regrouping and planning to meet on Thursday 5th of September at the Green Room at 8pm to make plans for the coming academic year. All are welcome to attend.

Also planned a future AGM in October. Looking for more volunteers to join the PSA, or just share ideas as well as to get involved in events throughout the year. Please get in touch!

The PSA email is: Kirknewtonpspsa@gmail.com

To find out more about the PSA, come along to the Green Room at 7:30pm on Friday 30th- all are welcome.

Turid raised that P2 parents have asked **if there could be** fundraising for a sheltered **area** for the front/back playground.. Mrs Patience said there are many challenges to create **this, that they have looked into this before and unfortunately** costs in the past were suggested at £20k plus.

7. Proposed dates for future meetings (to be held via Zoom until further notice):

- Monday 4th November 2024
- Tuesday 28th January 2025
- Thursday 27th March 2025
- Monday 9th June 2025
- Social: Friday 30th August 2024 7:30

8. Thanks and Conclusion of AGM

Agenda for meeting following AGM

1. **Approval of last minutes.** Minutes approved.

2. **HT Update (KP):**

- **Start of school year including p1 transition**

- First day went well- children and parents did well! All is going well with all the expected wobbles. Nice getting to know you learning activities.

An evaluation of the P1 transition will be sent out to parents in the next few weeks – please can parents look out for this and use the opportunity to give feedback.

- Thursday 5th of September is planned for ‘meet the teacher’. Please pop in any time between 5.00pm and 6.00pm. All are welcome to attend to see the plans and resources for the year. There will also be rolling presentations about Teams and Seesaw for parents and carers to see. Plan to have a PC/PSA information board at the ‘meet the teacher’.

- **Staffing update**

- Miss Fletcher has started in P6. We have been offered an extra pupil support worker, paid for by the council. Her name is Mrs Carmen Raza - she will be starting in a few weeks and welcomed to the team
- Excited to share the safe arrival of three new babies- Mrs McKriel welcomed baby Hosiah and Miss Fernie (who will return to school as Mrs Walkingshaw) welcomed babies Jack and Harry. All are well.

3. **Answers to questions/points raised in advance**

- From P5 but relevant to all parents in regards to technology in school. West Lothian approach is Anytime, Any Place learning. West Lothian position state ‘ From P4 upwards children are allowed to have digital devices’ in school to support learning anytime, any place. Mrs Patience summarized that ‘We were clear this is not essential to have and that technology is available at school. However, due to lack of technology at school the technology needs to be shared between pupils. Having own devices will enhance the learning experience and is to be used in a learning context rather than recreational. The children are using the technology in supervised settings. School has a Firewall which helps but is not perfect as the internet is always developing and will work 99% of the time. The rest of the time we are monitoring children to help all to navigate the internet safely. Children don’t have free access to their devices throughout the day- the teachers have a place to keep them. They are not

for use in play grounds and lunch. We are aiming to make this an open place to avoid children using them in secret. We are setting things up so children can learn to use them safely. Pip raised that there is no perfect solution. Emma raised that parents don't yet have the understanding of what happens to the devices during the day and this might help. Pip **suggested that** it may help to inform parents/carers about use of **devices in school** in June before the next school year. Parents wanted to know if there is any form of consultation. Mrs Patience advised that it's parent's choice not have own devices in school. Question raised about not having access to devices compatible with Teams. In this instance, Mrs Patience asked for parents to contact the school. Please note however, that many devices can access Teams including Xbox/playstation. Paper copies of learning can be made available.

- Homework diaries will be available to all children.
- **Pip reminded everyone that** any questions or points to raise for upcoming parent council meeting **should be sent to** at Kirknewtonparentcouncil@gmail.com **and encouraged people to make use of this opportunity.**

4. **Support Group**

- This is a monthly group for parents and carers of care experienced children and children with additional support needs (of any level). It takes place monthly on a Thursday evening from 7.30pm - 9pm in The Green Room.

5. **Wee updates:**

- Walking Bus- roaring success. Plea to parents/carers to help with the walking bus to share the load. Please let Emma Fuller know if you're interested, **by emailing the school office.**
- Kirkie Savers- Opportunity to save money throughout the year(s). Good time to start thinking about P7 trip away and other saving opportunities.
- Consultation about reporting on child's progress- look out for this, this week.

6. **Significant dates in the next half-term**

- **See calendar on the school website**
- **Pip particularly flagged up** Sat 28th of September Mini- Dig- opportunity to tidy up **school's outdoor learning** space. Time- 9am and will run until around 1pm.

7. **AOCB**

Nothing raised

Next meeting:

Monday 4th November at 8pm

Join Zoom Meeting – Details sent in Group Call – 03.09.24