

# BPS Parent Council Meeting

Monday 17/5/21 7:00pm / Virtual meeting via Zoom

## Attendees

Tracy Lambie **TL** (chair), Carolyn Hopcroft **CH** (secretary), Laura Wallace **LW** (treasurer), Lorraine Beggs **LB**, Iain Moore **IM**, Jacqui Anderson **JA**, Aileen Hepburn **AH**, Paula Ross **PR** (Headteacher), Martin Frame **MF** (Deputy Head), Gemma Jamieson **GJ** (Principal Teacher)  
Early years representatives from SLC – Mr Vance Sinclair and Ms Jennifer McCormie

## Apologies

Laura Langford **LL**, Alston McCorquodale **AMc**, Luise Siekman **LS**, Julie Connell **JuC**, John Clink **JC**, Jillian Kinney **JK**, Jim Davidson **JD**, Julie Allinson **JuA**

## Welcome

- **TL** welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced our guests from SLC Early Years – Mr Vance Sinclair and Ms Jennifer McCormie

## Minutes of previous meeting

These were agreed as a true and accurate record of previous meeting.

## Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

- **TL** updated us that the Parent Council section of the school app is now ready and she will liaise with **GJ** re getting this added on to the application.
- **JuA** has been looking into gaining charity status for the Parent Council. **LW** reported that **JuA** hasn't had the time to go through the lengthy application process for this and if we do go ahead with it then **LW** would have to stand down as treasurer as there is a lot more work and expertise required than what she feels she is equipped to do. **JuA** to give her opinion at the next meeting but it was generally felt that with the relatively small amount of revenue coming in to the Parent Council, it may not be worth pursuing charity status.

## School Modernisation / Nursery update

Vance Sinclair and Jennifer McCormie from the SLC School Modernisation Team and Early years representative gave a summary update to the group regarding the planned nursery at BPS. Vance reported that there is a current deficit in nursery places available for local children due to the delay

in the new nursery being built at Clyde Terrace. BPS has been identified as an ideal location for a temporary nursery. Room 1 and Room 2 and the toilets next to them on the ground floor are going to be used as a temporary nursery for 40 children for a maximum of 2 years. This will open in August 2021. Jennifer McCormie is currently working through the application for this to go ahead with the Care Inspectorate.

**PR** reported that so far the school and whole community are being very supportive of this.

The ICT Suite and Rainbow Room will both be used as classrooms from August 2021.

**JA** raised concern that current pupils may lose ICT time and skills. **PR** reassured the group that pupils will still receive the same amount of ICT learning and that computers currently in the ICT suite will be moved to classrooms. Also, emphasis will be more on handheld devices eg. Chromebooks.

**PR** reported that the school wifi will be updated to accommodate these changes.

Vance Sinclair reported that ICT is integrated within classrooms in most schools nowadays and pupils will still receive 2 hours per week of ICT. Adaptations will be made to the current ICT suite to make it more suitable to be used as a classroom.

Vance Sinclair also clarified that school funds will not be used to fund anything detrimental which has been caused by the introduction of the nursery. Adaptations to rooms will be carried out over the summer.

**IM** questioned whether buying more Chromebooks is good use of school funds. **PR** noted that the school already has a large number of Chromebooks and these are looking at being added to as some of them are now needing replaced. **GJ** reported that some of the whiteboards and speakers are also requiring to be upgraded. It was noted that there is currently a long waiting time for IT equipment.

**TL** asked that the Parent Council be kept up to date with any changes over the summer.

**LW** raised concern that the ICT room is smaller than other classrooms. Mr Sinclair advised that it still meets statutory requirements for SLC and they would encourage a smaller or composite class to utilise this space. **PR** confirmed that a small class will be in that room and they will also be able to utilise the extra area outside the room where the library is, as the library not currently in use. It was clarified that there will always be a space for the library, it will not be removed.

**JA** asked what will be used in place of the Rainbow Room. **PR** clarified that music lessons are having to be held in a bigger room eg gym hall at present as there is more ventilation there.

**PR** clarified that there will be a staggered start and finish to nursery times, to avoid congestion.

An outdoor penned off area directly outside Rooms 1 and 2 will be created for outdoor play for the nursery children.

Vance Sinclair reported that he will be happy to attend a future meeting eg. In August / September to answer any further questions we may have.

**TL** thanked Vance Sinclair and Jennifer McCormie for attending and updating the group.

## Headteacher's update

Mrs Ross **PR** gave the following update, primarily regarding COVID:

- Current school role 311
- There will be 40 new P1's starting in August. Two small classes.
- Miss O'Neill has returned from maternity leave and now works 3 days per week.

- Mrs McSeveney has still to return from maternity leave
- The school are very fortunate that they still have a full staffing complement
- The children have settled back into school very well and have adapted well to rules and regimes
- The school is running the same as pre lockdown and no further guidance has been given yet to change this. This will continue until the summer.
- There have been very few positive cases in the school and everyone is very aware of how important all the rules are.
- It is a relatively young staff who are not yet vaccinated yet. Staff are carrying out voluntary LFTs twice per week.
- The school is following all covid rules diligently. Children are sitting in rows in classrooms and also at lunchtime, not facing onto other pupils. Children remain in their bubbles during lunchtime. Each day the teachers log who is close to who to make it easier to identify close contacts should a positive case arise.
- Only 2 essential visitors are allowed in the school per day.
- School trips are currently not permitted, only educational outings in local area and approved by SLC.
- Currently no transition visits are permitted but if this changes we will be updated.
- Photographers are currently not permitted, even outdoors. The staff will take class photos of P7 instead.
- Residential trips are not allowed to be booked until December.
- From today, non contact indoor PE is permitted.
- Face to face music tuition is also now permitted.
- SLC are starting to look at guidance to allow visitors into the school. If the rules change even at short notice, the school will aim to get the new P1's in for a short transition visit.
- P7 pupils are having an activity week from 1<sup>st</sup> June. Everything is being risk assessed and plans may change as rules are relaxed.
- Sports Day will still go ahead but with no parents allowed
- Parental Involvement has been minimal due to restrictions. However, parents phone meetings are starting this week, reports will be issued in a few weeks' time and snapshot jotters will also be sent home soon.

Mrs Ross **PR** then gave the following update re the school recovery plan:

- Health and Well Being was first looked at on pupils return to school and then academic progress.
- Looking to address any gaps in maths and literacy, between children who did have input at home learning and those who did not.
- Home learning uptake was exceptional. Every class had >80% engagement and some had >90%
- Attachment and resilience – staff have had further training on this and all staff will also be receiving mental health training next year.
- The school are working to reidentify the poverty attainment gap. Some children took longer to access eg. Chromebooks, Myfi etc.

- The Scottish Government has introduced participatory budgeting. The school receives money for children in certain poverty brackets. Scottish Government say that 5% (£2500) of the PEF budget should be decided as a committee. Mrs Jamieson **GJ** will be leading this. Staff and parents will be on the committee to help decide how we as a school community should spend this. This will start after the summer and the aim is to close the gap between children who are deprived by poverty and those who are not.
- **PR** thanked everyone for completing the Vision and Values questionnaire. A lot of support came through from parents. Mr Frame **MF** noted that it was interesting that staff, children and parents all had similar views and ideas. The school will continue working with everyone again next year on this.
- **PR** thanked the all parents for their support this year and for making the children's return to school as easy as it could be. Everyone was reminded that Mrs Ross is at the end of an email or phone at all times and even though at present visitors are not allowed into the school, they are still keen to keep engaging with parents and carers as much as possible.

## Update from Treasurer

**LW** reported that £250 was given to the P7's for their leavers event and it was received with thanks and appreciation.

## Fundraising

Fundraising has been put on hold this year due to Covid.

The general feeling in the group is for this to continue for the remainder of the academic year and look at things again in August.

**PR** asked if it would be possible to allow pupils to do a small fundraiser during health week to give a donation back to Ronald McDonald House charity. They donated computers to the school during lockdown. It was agreed that this is a good idea and funds will be split between school and Ronald McDonald House.

## Any Other Business

- Bothwell Futures – **TL** was contacted by Kevin Moore and invited to attend the first meeting on Bothwell Futures on behalf of BPS PC on 19/5/21. This group aims to engage with local community groups to discuss how we would like Bothwell to be in the future. 2025, 2040 and beyond. It will be looking at how BPS can be involved in shaping Bothwell of the future. **TL** will attend this and report back at our next meeting.
- Parent Council Chair Person – **TL** reported that her 3 year tenure is now up and that she will be stepping down as Chair Person. Looking for volunteers to take on this role. **JA** asked if Tracy could give everyone an idea of how much time and effort are involved in the role. **TL** feels a Vice Chair would be useful along with a Chair person.

**TL** to issue a summary of what she does to the rest of the PC and also she will think about whether she would be happy to support a new person for the first year or not. She would prefer to do a transition with a new person.

**JA** suggested that for every new attendee at Parent Council, their children could be awarded house points as an incentive to increase numbers in the group.

**IM** suggested we contact new P1 parents prior to the summer to ask if they would be interested in joining the PC. **PR** and **MF** suggested that the Parent Council do a short video part for the new P1 parents online transition.

## **Date and Time of Next meeting**

To be confirmed.