

# Gleniffer High School Parent Council



**Subject:** General Parent Council Meeting No.555

**Minutes Taken By:** Margaret McCartney

**Date:** 02/10/17 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

**Date Issued:** 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017

**Venue:** Gleniffer High School

**File Ref:**

**Present:**

**Apologies:**

Lesley Binning Alastair McGhee Margaret McCartney	LBi AMcG MMcC	Chairperson/Parent Member Vice-Chair/Parent Member Secretary/Parent Member	Caroline Young Lesley Gibson Stuart Sinclair Kevin Jose	CY LG SS KJ	Parent Member Parent Member Co-op Parent Member Co-op Parent Member
Iain McKenzie George Walker Carolann Davidson Sandra O'Hare Georgina Kent Fiona Fairbrother Jackie Kydd Dorothy McCann	IM GW CD SOH GK FF JK DM	Parent Member Parent Member Parent Member Parent Member Parent Member Parent Member Parent Member Parent member	Councillor McCartin	EMcC	Local Councillor
John Phillips	JP	Co-op Parent Member	<b>Absent:</b>		
Lisa Chalmers Nicola Crawford Margie Walker	LC NC MW	Head Teacher Teacher Teacher	Karen Anderson Lorraine Carslaw Louise Green JulieAnn Butler	KA LCa LG JB	Parent member Parent member Parent Member Co-op Parent Member
Robbie Campbell Ciara Phillips	RC CP	Head Boy Head Girl			

<b>Distribution List:</b> All of the above plus:			
Peter Macleod	Director of Childrens' Services	Alison Warnock	Acting Head Teacher, Bushes Primary School
Steven Quinn	Assistant Director (Education)	Hilary Paterson Graeme MacLean Claire MacGregor Duncan Marie-Claire Temple	Head Teacher, Heriot Primary School Head Teacher, Langcraigs Primary School Head Teacher, Lochfield Primary School Head Teacher, Brediland Primary School
Stephen Burns Marie McGurk Lorraine Cameron Eddie Devine Paul Mack Kevin Montgomery	Councillor, Renfrewshire Council Councillor, Renfrewshire Council Councillor, Renfrewshire Council Councillor, Renfrewshire Council Councillor, Renfrewshire Council		

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

LB welcomed everyone to the meeting

## **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received as above –

## **3. Comments/Approval of previous Minutes –**

Proposed by: Carolann Davidson

Seconded: George Walker

## **4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

The Tour of the School took place on 27 September 2017 – JK went on tour and found it to be a worthwhile experience.

## **5. PC Liaison Meeting – 12 September 2017**

- LB had sent out the details of the meeting by e-mail.  
S Quinn gave a presentation on the analysis of the exam results of Renfrewshire as a whole but acknowledged that Numeracy was still not as good as Literacy. Overall the council were pleased with the results and as they have high expectations for the future they have set all HTs a target of 10% improvement for next session.
- Parental Engagement was discussed – on agenda for later
- Scottish National Standardised Assessment – these will take place in P1, P4, P7 and S3 and will start this year. The results of these tests will not be made public and there will be no league tables of results either. P1-P7 Testing will take place in May and S3 will take place in Nov/Dec. Schools will decide when and how they will operate these tests. The Scottish Government had recommended that the tests be conducted in June but staff felt that this would make it a test rather than an assessment which could be used to improve learning. Discussions will still need to take place to finalise details.
- Youth Services Presentation – Presentation on the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and how useful it is for young people. In GHS Lindsay Robb undertakes this role and they are currently looking for a second person to assist with this. Also talked about drop in centres and community clubs which were available. They also wish to encourage young people to sign up for the Young Scot card and encourage the pupils to use them.
- Debbie Newlands from the National Parent Forum for Renfrewshire gave a presentation on the Parental Involvement Act. They conducted a review and the findings showed that overall parents felt there had been improvements compared to 10 years ago. The findings are on the NPF website. LB will ask if they can release the PowerPoint which was used to the PC. DN also gave details of the NPF Conference which takes place on 10 March 2018 (in Edinburgh). John Swinney will speak at this. There are 2 Local Authorities who held their own event on the same day last year and Renfrewshire Council want to know if the PC felt it would be useful if they held their own this year? There will be presentations from ‘Respect-me’ on anti-bullying and social media.

## **6. Parental Engagement**

- There was a discussion on how the PC engages with the wider parent body and even though we are using Facebook and Twitter there was some concern that we were not getting as many parents’ opinions as we would like. We will also use e-mail so parents can post queries on the website.
- NPFS and SPTC use Survey Monkey to ascertain parental views so PC thought it might be a good idea to use this method too.
- There was discussion around our Communication Strategy and we are going to ask the parents ‘What are the 3 main things you would like to know more about?’ We would have an article in the next newsletter.
- For the next meeting we can see how things have gone and maybe fix a time for an event/drop-in.

## 7. Teachers' Report

- MW informed the meeting about the success of National Maths Week (Scottish Government's initiative to generate positive attitudes to Maths) which involved all schools across Scotland.
  - Notice board for the build-up and corridors decorated –over 500 photographs
  - On-line contest – ‘Sum-dog’ and all S1 had log in details for this competition
  - ‘Maths Wie Nae Borders’ – S3/S4/S5/S6 – sent off 29 Entries
  - Design a Maths Booklet Cover for use with National 5 October Test Revision Booklet – 2 winners who will soon see the results of their efforts when the booklets are handed out.
  - Enterprising Maths Team to Gryffe – 2 x S3 and 2 x S4 pupils took part
  - Parents in Partnership – slot in Maths Department to encourage positivity towards Maths
  - Escape Rooms x 4 – every S1 pupil took part with assistance from S5/S6 pupils – 30 mins in each room
  - Maths in other subjects across the curriculum
  - Relay-race with other staff involved and Maths Champions (with T-shirts and hats). This took place in the Social Area which meant lots of people could participate and watch the event unfold.
  - Bridge Engineering Contest – S1 and S3 got half a day to complete this challenge
  - Murder mystery S1 and half of S3 were able to participate in this event
  - Staff Maths Jokes
  - Daily questions for non-maths teachers
  - Golden Tickets were on offer all week for pupils to collect and redeem for prizes
  - Brodie House won the overall prize for the week.
  - Gleniffer won the Renfrewshire prize and gained £500 for the Maths Department
  - Congratulations and thanks were offered to the department for all their success and hard work
- NC spoke about the German Exchange trip organised by R Quinn, and explained that the German students had arrived in Scotland today (the exchange works with Gleniffer pupils going to Germany, near Furth, one year and the German students returning to Scotland the following year).
  - The pupils will be in Gleniffer tomorrow morning and there will be a civic reception later in the day in Paisley Abbey and then they will spend the evening with the host families.
  - Wednesday in New Lanark
  - Thursday in Millport
  - Friday in Edinburgh
  - Saturday with their partners and families
  - Sunday – farewell ceilidh in Gleniffer
  - Monday – return to Germany
- Tracking - NC (PT Attainment from last session) talked about how tracking was being used in Gleniffer to help with attainment. Staff would be looking to help with pupils who were under-performing. Pupils in S4 have just received their first Tracking Report today, in it there will be a ‘Working at’ grade and a ‘Target’ grade which was discussed with the pupils in August. It should be noted that very few pupils at this stage will be working at their Target as there is a long way to go till the exams.
- (LC is meeting S Quinn tomorrow to discuss results and presentation levels – 65% target for National 5 x 5 passes for next year which is up on this year's target)

## 8. Head Teacher's Report

1. Staffing Update - Mr Baynham has now started in the English department and Mrs Keay starts next Monday. We also have a new librarian Shiona Lawler who started last week and plans to attend a PC meeting in the future to discuss her plans for taking the library forward. The PTA has approved a bid for £680 to purchase new furniture for the library.

Mr Homan in HFT has unfortunately left us due to personal reasons, which once again leaves this department in a difficult position. An advert for a teacher will be put out ASAP; however, I have to acknowledge that it is highly unlikely we will get anyone to fill this position. As a result, we may need to look at reallocating classes in the BGE and some senior phase provision elsewhere. I recognise this is very disappointing and will continue to work to try to resolve this.

Mr Sherry has joined the PE department on a full-time temporary basis as Mr Lawrie who started at the beginning of the session got a permanent post elsewhere. We believe we have secured a temporary staff member to cover Mr Tollan in PE.

2. Calendar Items - The P7 transition programme has started with four out of the five primaries welcoming us to speak with parents and pupils due to start with us next session. The Open Evening for P7 pupils is Thursday 26th October and we expect this to be well attended.

The Senior Phase Information took place on 6th September. The turnout of parents and carers wasn't great. I think they benefitted most from the presentations delivered by English and Maths staff as well as the SDS input so we will be looking to adapt the format of the evening for session 2018-19 to include more department inputs.

The Parents In Partnership Programme commenced 7th September and is running really well. Some nervous families came along not sure what to expect, however they have been taking part in a range of lessons including Art, PE and Science to learn about how their children learn in school. Attendance has been very good.

SQA Analysis meetings have taken place, with the exception on one department, which will take place later this week. The meetings have been very productive and have allowed us to identify common themes across the school, discuss the pathways for pupils into the senior phase and look at presentation level data. The S4 tracking period has closed and at this stage 65.34% of young people in S4 are being targeted for at least five National 5 qualifications. The attainment this session was 44% so this gives the pupils and us a good start; however we all need to work hard to achieve anything like this. The support of parents in discussing target and working grades with pupils is very much appreciated. S5/6 data will be available at the end of this week.

I attended a CfE Conference this month with Senior Managers from the West of Scotland. I attended two workshops on Self Evaluation and Tracking progress in the BGE. I was pleased that the messages, which were coming out, were very much in line with our priorities.

The UCAS evening took place on 20th September and was well attended. Lynn Harris led the event and shared very important information with parents and young people. The process is well underway with UCAS workshops starting today. Thanks to Lynn for her work in pulling this together.

The Malawi group gave an excellent presentation to me on Thursday. They shared information on the selection process, their expedition and the work with which they will be involved. They also challenged me to a task of getting through a minefield blindfolded. Thankfully they looked after me!

Several of us are attending training this week about the new Scottish National Standardised Assessment. This affects S3 pupils in Gleniffer with the first cohort expected to participate in this programme of benchmarking before Christmas. Renfrewshire Council are providing training on the use of this package and also how we use the data afterwards.

## **8. Head Teacher's Report continued**

3. Pupil Equity Funding - The Transition Teachers have now spent time identifying their target groups and have started individual and group work with these young people. They are working on literacy and numeracy as well as supporting staff with the best approaches to use to allow these learners access the curriculum. It is hoped they will deliver professional learning to all staff on the February in-service day.

Our second Inclusion Support Officer has started with us and remits have been pinned down. The two staff members will be specifically targeting issues with S1-S3 pupils and supporting the Pastoral team. They have already started working on late coming with pupils and are looking to develop systems for some of our most vulnerable learners.

Show My Homework issues have finally been resolved and pin codes are being issued to pupils this week, which they will take home. Texts will also be sent to parents and carers to let them know to look out for this information.

4. School Improvement Plan 2017-18 - The school improvement plan will be ready to publish by the October holiday. I will send it out to Parent Council members next week for final approval before publishing.

## **9. Head Girl/Head Boy Report**

- S3 Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) run by Ms Cameron is to raise the awareness of young people of social issues in their local area and to get them to find out about these and local charities which support them. It really boosts the confidence of the pupils and gives them good life lessons. Pupils form teams and give a presentation on their charity. The winning team will get £3,000 for their chosen charity which will really benefit them. It also means that the local charities are getting good publicity.
- HE Convention for pupils who are considering going to university. It is an opportunity for pupils to speak to representatives from institutions from Scotland and the rest of the UK, pick up prospectuses, listen to talks from the universities etc. It is very useful and informative.
- Malawi Group Presentation – group are all up to speed with their link with Dzenza Primary and talked about how they are fund-raising for the trip
- PTA Bake Sale – Badge holders assist with this event
- National Maths Week – S6 pupils enjoyed helping out the new S1 pupils as it helped them get to know the young people
- Halloween Dance – 2 November in the Social Area – Badge holders are organising this event for all S4-S6 pupils
- McMillan Coffee Morning on 28 September was a big success but no figure yet for what the profit was
- S6 Pizza and Games Night – 60 pupils paid £5 – great success with a pupil team winning the competition. Another movie night is planned before Christmas.
- Young Enterprise – sale of scarves in house colours - £45 profit so far – Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce have been involved and there will be an article in the Business Matters Magazine
- S6 Prom – HG to organise this event and it is now booked for Boclair House which is a lovely venue.

## **10. Any Other Business**

- Minutes of previous meeting – discussion took place about when to post the minutes of the meetings on to the website. It was agreed that this would happen after the meeting had approved and seconded them.
- Enquiry about the current standing of the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme in the school – should be 20 Bronze Awards by Christmas (S4 pupils) and 20 S3 currently involved. Question was asked about Silver Awards but school only offers Bronze at this point in time.

## **11. Date of Next Meetings**

- 30 October
- 4 December
- 8 January
- 5 February
- 5 March
- 16 April
- 4 June

