

## **Parent Council meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> November 23**

**Present: Laura McLintock, Gemma Young, Lorna Wooler, Chris McCreath, Koyejo Olugbile, Carol McGovern, Lauren O'Donnell, Karen Kerr**

**Apologies: Natalie McCartney**

### **Chair's Welcome**

Introduction of all present.

Minutes of last meeting held on 23rd May 2023 adopted

The three positions on the council now filled as follows:

- Chair: Chris McCreath
- Treasurer: Natalie McCartney
- Secretary: Koyejo Olugbile

Financial account still to be regularised by the transfer of signatories from Colin and Karen to Natalie and Chris. This action will be taking on by Natalie.

**Constitution** – Chris suggested review of existing Parent Council Constitution whittling it down to no more than one page; in plain English to encourage increased participation of parents. It is thought the formality not really needed given the number of attendees. The word 'constitution' should also be considered be changed to 'Charter' as the former might put people off.

### **Parental Engagement/School Improvement plan.**

The School Improvement Plan 23/24 sets out aims for two priority areas: raising attainment in literacy and promoting inclusion and equality. As part of the quality assurance process the school seeks parent views, pupil views and staff views. It was agreed to set up a project group for the Parent Council to input to the work on the current plan and the development of next year's plan.

**\*\*ACTION\*\* Parent Council to get involved in Parental Engagement aspects of the School Improvement plan and contribute to the review, monitoring, evaluation and implementation of the Plan.**

Ms McLintock reported to the council that the workshop on dyslexia was well received by parents who attended, and it's now been updated on the school's website. It was suggested that the school explore ways to record future workshop sessions in order to build up an archive or library of resources to be made accessible to current and future parents.

### **What kind of parental engagement is most effective?**

Ms McIntock provided feedback on the Comms survey (June 2023). 78 responses were received: Features found most beneficial in the school app:

School Calendar – 47

Messages – 39

News Feed – 17

Information Section – 21

Don't use the School App - 22

*Update: November 2023 Survey – Communication on learning: The top four most valuable and informative forms of engagement, as voted by parents, are: parents evening; Meet the Teacher; report cards and termly overviews.*

Guidance on communication channels has been updated, was issued in schoolbags, and is on the school website: [\[908156\]Communication leaflet for parents - October 2023.pdf \(comelypark.falkirk.sch.uk\)](#)

Parent Council Meetings - Parent council suggested having a hybrid type meeting to allow for some parent to attend virtually and or participate in the council meeting. This will require setting up of appropriate infrastructure to allow for this option.

It was reported early years group will be setting up a council wide forum for early years parent council representatives. Chris will look in this.

### **Headteacher Update**

Rights respecting school silver award.

Building and finance - struggling with budgets.

5-year asset management plan of all the planned improvements in the school to be shared.

Boiler system replaced.

£10,000 spent on seating, sheds and toys.

### **Any Other Business**

Carol raised the security risk associated with Parent app and X which are not secure and present a safeguarding concern.

Options were raised to be considered such as SeeSaw and Showbie.

It was agreed app requirements should be collated i.e.. "core things we need the app to be capable of addressing" and discuss it at the next meeting.

Carron Primary are looking in to SeeSaw

Lauren O Donnell's school use SeeSaw with great success, Lauren is a SeeSaw ambassador and can provide further information/help.

**\*\*ACTION\*\* School to investigate options for a system for communicating about learning (e.g. SeeSaw, Showbie etc), consider requirements and feedback to Parent Council**

**Anything happening with the pitch?**

**\*\*ACTION\*\* - Chris to contact Woodlands and comment on the safety of the pitch. The slopes at the side of the pitch and the running track**

*Update from Woodlands 10/11/23: We are aware of the issue particularly at the sides and last Monday we had a company out to see what could be done regarding it. We also got them to provide a maintenance plan for the next few years of its life and as a result works will be carried out on it over the next few weeks.*

*We have spoken to the school to get the message across that the children are not allowed on the slopes as them sliding down it contributes to the wear and tare of it and that it is unsafe to do so. It would be good in your capacity to also relay this message to the parents to ensure the children stay off the slopes.*

*We will update you when the work is done and any plans we have going forward for the pitch replacement. We have been advised that we will get around 2 years out of the current pitch and are already looking at funding opportunities for when it is needing replaced.*