

## **Minutes - Comely Park Parent Council AGM - Thu 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 7pm**

Attendees – Chris McCreath (Chair), Koyejo Olugibile (Clerk), Lisa Fairweather, Debra Harrison, Lauren O'Donnell, Catherine Bradbrook, Judith Hughes, Laura McLintock, Gemma Young, James McGrath

### **1. Chair's welcome**

The chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

### **2. Minutes of previous meeting**

The revised minutes of the of the previous meeting were agreed.

### **3. Minutes of previous AGM**

The minutes of the previous AGM were agreed.

### **4. Update on work of Parent Council**

The chair gave a brief overview on the work of the Parent Council over the past year including:

- Working with school management to update the communication guidance – issued in October 2023
- Giving feedback on the School Improvement Plan priority action on improving attainment in literacy. The literacy pages on the comely park website have been updated to incorporate some of that feedback.
- Collaborated and gave feedback on what they would like to see from a parental communication platform.

### **5. Membership of Parent Council**

Confirmed that the current office bearers appointed in 2023 are:

Chair – Chris McCreath

Clerk - Koyejo Olugibile

Treasurer – Natalie McCartney

The role of vice chair is currently unfilled.

Discussed ideas to increase membership of parent council, suggestions were:

- Include some information about the purpose the Parent Council when sending email reminders for meetings
- Poster display with information about Parent Council on notice board at p2/3 entrance.

### **6. Parent Council Constitution**

Discussed the idea of reviewing/amending the Constitution to make it shorter and easier to understand. Agreed that we would email any ideas to simplify or change the Constitution and discuss at the next meeting.

### **7. School Improvement Plan**

School staff shared information regarding the School Improvement Plan for 2024/25 and informed the Parent Council of the opportunity to join in a consultation between the school and the parent forum. This Improvement Plan Focus Group session has been arranged for 9am on 30/05/24. This will be an informal opportunity for parents to learn about and discuss the plan.

Mrs McLintock explained that they are in the process of drafting the next Standards and Qualities report that feeds into the School Improvement Plan.

### **8. Treasurer's update on Accounts**

Accounts have not yet been submitted; this item will roll over to the next meeting. A request has been made to the bank to change the bank account holders to the current chair and treasurer.

## **9. Head Teacher's update**

### School Improvement Plan

- Invited parents to join a focus group.
- Pupil focus group also works on school planning.
- SIP 24/25 Next year's being pulled together from our self evaluation. Early indications the two key drivers will be linked to literacy reading and equality and inclusion which will include racial literacy. The ELC phonological awareness and health and wellbeing (SHANARRI and UNCRC).
- Rights Respecting School Gold Award
- Reading School Silver Award
- S&Q report 23/24

### School News

- Learning, Teaching and Assessment visit took place on 22.05.24
- Clubs – Choir, Art, STEM, Lego, Animation, Glee, Country Dancing, Sewing, Book Club, Coding Club, Basketball, Cross Country, Yoga, Rugby and Football.
- School success –
  - Reading School Bronze Award
  - Rights Respecting School Silver
  - Dalguise school trip - will be going to Lockerbie Manor instead next year
  - Several dress down days/charity days
  - Glee
  - Brain Week
  - Diversity Week
  - Fairtrade Focus Week
  - Rhyme Week
  - Internet Safety Week
  - Mental Health Awareness Week
  - World of Work/STEM week coming up
  - Inter-House Talent Show
  - Sports events across Falkirk
  - School excursions supported by PTA

### Transition

- ELC - home visits
- P1 – Stay and Play sessions, Story and Snack, Play in the nursery, lunch in the school hall, meet the buddies, meet the teacher.
- P7 – increased visits to FHS or other secondary schools in lead up to 2 day visit (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> June) Enhanced transition visits.

### Staffing

- Next session staff not yet confirmed.
- Mrs Faulds (ELC) is going on maternity leave and a backfill post will be recruited.

### X (Twitter)

- Use of Twitter/X will be for posting class pictures/updates will be replaced from next term by the School App. The school app is private to Comely Park parents, unlike Twitter/X posts that are publicly available.

## **10. AOB**

Final item discussed without school management present:

### **11. Learning Week Proposals**

Discussed the proposal to reduce the school week by 2.5 hours.

All attendees disagree with the proposal.

Would like to see more specific detail on what the proposal would mean for each primary school e.g. would P.E. be reduced to one hour? Would time on Literacy and Numeracy be protected? Clarity on what is being dropped from the school week.

Considered that an asymmetric week without the reduction in hours might be more palatable.

Email to be drafted and sent from the Parent Council in response to consultation stating that we are opposed to the proposal – we believe the reduction will be harmful to the children's education, put them at a disadvantage compared to peers in other local authorities, harm their chances of attaining results needed for positive destinations such as university, apprenticeships and employment. There is risk of parents leaving the Falkirk Council area if the change goes ahead.