

## **Sciennes PS Parent Council Meeting**

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 @ 7pm  
via MS Teams

### **Voting attendees:**

Caroline McKellar, Chair  
Grant Catto, comms group  
LeeAnne Boyle, Co Treasurer & Temp PVG Convenor  
Anoushek Salahshour, Co Treasurer  
Elinore Mc Givern, P1 Rep  
Franca Macleod, P4 Rep  
Gidona Henderson, P6 Rep  
Shane Buckeridge, P7 Rep  
Claire Carr, Fundraising & Events Co-Convenor  
Josie Pilcher, Fruit Group Convenor  
Christine Knox, P5 Rep  
Lena Lornez, P2 Rep  
Chigdem Arslan, P3 Rep & ASN Rep  
Janine Ridley, Clubs Convenor

### **Non-voting attendees:**

Sharon McGhee, HeadTeacher  
Lucy Gallagher, DHT  
Carolyn Anstruther, DHT  
John Armstrong, DHT  
Jenni McGrouther, Principal Teacher  
D Gladstone, Class Teacher  
Amanda Vardy, clerk  
Thorbjorn Lundsgaard  
Susie Braha  
Sarah MacPhail  
Sabina Savadova  
Rebecca Gerrard  
Cllr Pauline Flannery  
Joanna Lake  
Jenny Man  
Jun Chen  
Barbara Hunt  
Belinda McGhie  
Claire Methven O'Brien  
Emma McIntyre  
John D

### **Welcome**

Caroline opened the meeting with a welcome to everyone and gave a brief overview of the meeting agenda.

Succession Planning.

- New Chair & Vice Chair required before the end of the session to facilitate a smooth handover

### **Headteacher Update**

*Sharon McGhee*

- Massive Thank you to the P7 team who made Lagganlia such a success, and a huge Thank you to the PC for the financial support to allow all children the opportunity to take part in this event.
- Thank you to PC for ongoing support
- Actions since the Inspection Report
  - New Pupil Groups have been set up
    - Pupil Council
    - Junior Roas Safety Officers
    - House/Sports Captains

- Eco group
  - Digital Champions
- o School Improvement Plan
- o Physical Environment
  - Nursery – Party wall/ Kitchen Garden
  - P1 New Building – flooring to be repaired
  - P2/P7 – Classroom re-design
- o Wellbeing Bill
  - Support for Learning
  - Support families with children with additional support needs
- o Equalities & Sustainability
  - Anti-racism
  - Curriculum related to children’s needs
  - Identity/cultures/interests (from the child’s perspective)
  - Gold Right’s Respecting School
- o Learning & Teaching Policy
  - Skills/techniques teachers use to ensure learning to ensure consistency across all children
- o Relationship with the Children’s Parliament
  - National agenda
  - Influence Scottish Government work
- Lunchtime has changed – whole school now eats lunch in the lunch halls then to the playground
- Senior Leadership team visible once a week on Rota basis at lunchtimes (duty day)
- 70 families attended P1 Open Day
  - o P7 involved in tour of the school
  - o Thanks to the class reps for being so welcoming and supportive
- Preparations for P1/P7 transitions are underway
- First Minister’s Reading Challenge – lots of children taking part, Ms McGhee also participating
- Weekly video to all children is very well received
  - o “It’s me, Ms McGhee!”
- Many thanks to the PC for the recent fundraising events.
- Steve Davis, Business manager is retiring in December
  - o New appointment asap
  - o Interviews on 4<sup>th</sup> December
- Interviews for New Headteacher have been paused
  - o Information about the next steps will be shared with families asap

Any further questions for the HeadTeacher to be directed to the admin@sciennes email address

### **Group Updates**

### **Playground Update**

*Caroline*

- Extending playground into road area permanently
- Working hard with local councilors, a very supportive team but unable to attend the meeting tonight
- Meeting went ahead with Cllr Steve Burgess & Dave Sinclair
- Restricted access during school hours – full road closure during those hours
- No discussion at the meeting re playground extension into the space only the restricted access
- 2 part closure process
- Active Travel – not begun the TRO design yet, will work with the PC/school on this
- TRO being promoted – at public consultation during Jan/Feb
- TRO partial closure – one path of public access – if this is the only option achievable then it needs to be done right
- Formal closure of the road expected by end of June 2024
- TRO plans to be shared – closure to traffic during school hours- parking suspended
- Amendments can be made to the current TRO but this would delay the process by several months – double yellow lines and kerb blips to be added
- Further TRO can be submitted with the amendments when the other one is in place – preferred option than amending and delaying the current process

- Additional TRO would be a parallel process
- An ETRO (Experimental TRO) which requires no legislation can also be applied for and these last for 18 months
  - Close area from school to nature strip during school hours
  - Discuss with local councilors & chair of travel committee
- Heras fencing to remain in place until TRO is finalized
- Physical barrier to be determined at the design process
- Pedestrians/Bike lane to be channeled along the nature strip side of the pavement
- Fire/Ambulance happy with TRO plans
- ETRO and TRO are separate processes
- PC would be happy to fundraise to accommodate the change of road to playground and any equipment required.
- *Cllr Pauline Flannery – happy to continue to support, advised to continue with current TRO and apply for an additional one with the amendments*
- *Praise to Caroline for her tenacity with the cause*
- *Deputations to all council departments – get the message out there*
- *Deputations by the children – children to deliver the message*
- *Grant – entitlement re parking/road use to be re-iterated*
- *Parents/taxis refuse to follow restrictions*
- *Contact Grange Association*
- *Bob Carr – RSO, road safety duty, new volunteers required and Bob stepping down as RSO Lead. New Lead required*
- *Comms to go out to clarify the Safe Streets Restrictions*

## Comms Update

### Grant Catto

- WhatsApp – 341 members
- Lots of messages going out via WhatsApp – most used comms option
- New Website now live - clubs/ merchandise via website
- Clear Comms via the Website/WhatsApp
- Pictures for the Website – Safeguarding – to discuss with Lucy

## Fundraising and Events

### Claire Carr

- Very successful recent events
  - Bake Sales raised £700
  - Pub Quiz raised £1000
  - Halloween Discos raised £600
  - Uniform sales raised £600
- School shop available via the new school website
- eCommerce site on website
- Winter Fair
  - Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December @ 1pm
  - Request for inclusiveness for children with altered needs
    - 30min soft start @12.30pm
    - Quiet Santa's Grotto/disco etc
    - School has identified the children requiring this adjustment
  - Bulletin going out this week
  - Volunteers/donations required
  - Individual tasks have been assigned to each year group to spread the workload equally
  - Santa tickets via ParentPay
  - Donations for the class hampers required
  - Raffle prizes – local business/parent body donations
  - Raffle tickets will be sent out to each child to purchase prior to the fair and further tickets will be available on the day.
  - Variety of stalls
  - Bar
  - Music

- o Class enterprise
- o Consult WhatsApp for ongoing/up to date details
- Xmas Tress for collection from 1<sup>st</sup> December
- 9ft Xmas Tree has been gifted to the school from the PC
- School badges for sale - sold on ParentPay
- The devolved responsibility to year groups is working well and will be continued.

### **Football**

*Gordon Stove*

No Update

### **Eco Group**

No Update

### **Clubs**

*Janine Ridley*

- Clubs continue to run well
- Clubs are finishing next week until next term
- Waterpolo coach required
- Franca MacLeod may take over role of clubs convenor TBC
- Cancellation of clubs at the last minute is very disruptive to all involved
- Dates for clubs to be set in advance to avoid cancellations – Sharon to be given all the dates in advance
- School staff or Ms McGhee will cover the clubs
- New shop on website – Clubs to go on to Website
- Janine will give notice of clubs after meeting with school and Elliot
- *Pauline Flannery – QMU sports may have a Waterpolo coach*
- *Edinburgh leisure work with schools re sports coaches*
- *Engage with culture and community Colleagues*
- *Caroline – easy to plan for the year ahead, liase with the school*

### **Fruit Group**

*Josie Pilcher*

No Update

### **Treasurer Report**

*Caroline*

- Full Report on the Website as Leanne unable to attend this meeting
- 23/24 Spending plan to be finalised next week by Leanne & Sharon
- FFS/After-School Club have pledged £3500 for the playground update

### **Succession Planning / Vacant Roles**

- Leda resigning from Vice Chair role at end of session , New Vice-Chair required
- New Vice Chair to work with Caroline for 1 year before Caroline resigns from the role of Chair at the end of session 23/24, Vice- Chair to take over role of Chair when Caroline leaves.
- FFS – Fundraising person required, could be a current member of the Sciennes PC Fundraising group.
- Football Group Treasurer

Caroline closed the meeting at 8.35pm with Thanks to everyone who attended.

***Next Meeting date TBC***

## **Actions from the Meeting**

**1.** Deputations from the Children re Safer Street

2. Comms re Safe Streets Volunteers and Clarification of the Road Restrictions