



# GLASSFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting

held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022

at 7.30pm

(via Zoom)

**Members present:** Gordon Innes (Chairman)  
Christine Hall (Secretary)  
Lee Rogers  
Jennifer McEwan  
Janet Ballantyne

**In attendance:** Audrey Donnelly (Head Teacher), Rachel Goldie, Yvonne Waring, Rev Shaw Paterson, Hollie Godfrey, Laura Davidson Heather Beattie, Gary Troughton, and Cllr Elise Frame.

### 1. Welcome

Gordon welcomed everyone to the meeting, held again via Zoom because of the current restrictions still in place in visiting the school as well as meeting in groups. Hopefully the last to be held by Zoom. He also extended a special welcome to one of our newly elected councillors in attendance and also to a few other new parent attendees.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Donna Troughton, Anne Anderson, Cllr Margaret Cooper, Les Hoggan and Colin Smith.

### 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Laura proposed, and Lee seconded the Minutes from the previous meeting.

### 4. Actions from Previous Minutes

- No actions outstanding

### 5. Correspondence

- Email from Cllr Margaret Cooper passing in her apologies for the meeting and stating how pleased she was to be re-elected as a councillor for the area and that she had also been elected as Provost and Civic Leader of South Lanarkshire and though time is precious and she may not be able to attend many meetings, she can be contacted if the School has any issues that require support.
- Email from Lee requesting the go ahead to purchase reusable letter balloons for use by the School at leaver assembly and first day of term etc. This was authorised.
- Letter from M&M productions offering a reduced price on a theatre performance of the Secret Garden within School in the new term – this was agreed and will be paid for by the PC (Around £300)



- Email from Heather Beattie raising some concerns within the School, primarily regarding parental involvement. This will be discussed under Parental Engagement later in the meeting.

## 6. Fundraising

- £56.80 from the Ragbag bin which was emptied in May and there is a street collection arranged for this Thursday.

## 7. Parental Engagement

A letter was received from Heather Beattie which raised some concerns about staff continuing to wear masks in class, lack of parental involvement, lack of extra curricular activities and limited fundraising. All the points were discussed in the meeting and are summarised below. While the letter was a bit of a surprise when it was received, it opened up worthwhile discussion in this area and was very useful.

- It is the staff's personal choice whether to wear masks or not in class but they are all well aware of any limiting factors and strive to overcome any obstacles in the most suitable way
- Limited fundraising – we are aware some local schools have commenced fundraising with fairs and discos being held – Glassford are still rightly being cautious regarding Covid and are working towards a return to normality as soon as possible. The PC is fortunate as we have been continuing to raise funds via Ragbag, some schools don't have this funding stream.
- Extra curricular activities – a long list of activities was presented which shows that the after school clubs and trips that have been arranged or held this term are almost back to pre covid levels. And at no cost to families.
- Parental Involvement – parental input has been severely curtailed throughout the last 2 years and we recognise that we need to work hard to engage with parents and motivate them to get involved. Some good suggestions were made as to how this could be achieved and we look forward to developing these in the new term.
- We also agreed that we could and will try to be more prepared in advising of dates of events as far in advance as possible to aid working parents time off. Eg assemblies, showcases, parents nights events.
- A suggestion was made of stay and play events – instead at Glassford we find Showcase events work better because of the composite classes and we will strive to arrange these in the new term
- Recycling of uniform – any good quality pre loved and excess uniform is encouraged to be handed into the School for reuse. Laura Davidson has kindly agreed to assist co-ordinating this in such a manner that parents can access the uniform easily without feeling shame.
- When help is required from parents in some aspect, the parents forum group on facebook is used but it was suggested that with parents permission, perhaps the detail could be circulated via a general email.
- It was mentioned that our concerns re parental engagement is a similar feeling across other local schools and that we are not alone in wanting to improve.

## 8. School Recovery Plan/ Business

- Continuing absences though Covid for staff and pupils which is challenging for class cover and continuity in class but the school is coping well. This is not particular to Glassford and is an issue across the whole learning community.



- The P6/7s enjoyed a two days activity programme in Stirling and Larkhall at a very good price of £60. This was very worthwhile to meet other children of the same stage from Gilmourton and Sandford.
- The P7s have enjoyed a very expansive transition programme and they are well placed to move on to the Academy. This has included visits to the Academy, visits from teachers as well as sporting clubs.
- 7 new Primary 1s due to start in August and they have had a very good 2 days Induction already
- The 2 Ukrainian children are settling in really well and their English is progressing.
- The classes for next year have been confirmed as being P1/2/3, P4/5 and P6/7 although the staffing is still to be finalised.
- The Recovery Plan has now been replaced by the School Improvement Plan and this is being worked on jointly with the other Schools in the learning community as all face the same challenges.
- It is hoped with the appointment of the new Headteacher at the Academy that there will be even more collaboration with local teachers and Academy subjects.
- The 'Cost of the School Day' is an increasingly important topic that will see increased focus in the coming year.
- It is hoped to run more 'clubs' next year using local talent from parents or the local community eg knitting, craft or sports clubs.
- P5/6/7 have been working hard in Bikeability classes. The School is keen to have more trained Bikeability instructors as two of our current ones will soon be moving on. If anyone is interested, speak to Audrey – it's a fantastic one day course at no cost, held at Chatelheault. There may be an option to borrow a bike from the School for training as well if this is a barrier to potential attendance.
- It was confirmed that pupils in August can continue to wear joggers or leggings along with their polo shirt on Gym days as this definitely makes it easier for the teachers and reduces changing time.

#### 9. Any Other Competent Business

- A big thank you is extended to Anne Anderson and Janet Ballantyne who have both given many years of service to the Parent Council but who will now be retiring as their children move to the Academy. All their time and effort has been really appreciated by the others on the PC as well as the teaching staff.
- Elise Frame mentioned that she while she may not be able to attend every meeting, she was looking forward to being involved with the School and with the village generally and that if we had any support that we required, we are asked to get in touch.
- The whole village is looking forward to Gala Day on Saturday and the School itself has been tidied in readiness for visitors.

#### 10. Date & Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the AGM and it will be held at the start of September at a date which will be agreed at the start of the new term

Gordon then closed the meeting at approximately 9.15pm with thanks to everyone for attending and he wished everyone a good summer break.

