

**King's Park Primary School Parent Council**  
**AGM Meeting Minutes, Wednesday 17th June 2020**  
**(via ZOOM online meeting COVID-19)**

**Present:** Leanne Banks, Kate Bremner, Katy Bryce, Emily Cairns, John Clydesdale, Laura Cockram, Louise Duff, Karlyn Durrant (Secretary), Teresa Docherty, Marisa Farquhar, Julie Findlay (Depute Head), Jane Grant, John Hackett, Vicky Haylott, Katherine Kinninmonth, Jasmine Mailley-Lapointe, Aoibhe O'Callaghan (Chair), Zoe Orr (Depute Head), Jillian Phair, Leila Raeburn, Gail Reid, Laurinda Renton (Head Teacher), Claire Renwick, Warren & Sara Scott, Julie Shaw, Debbie Summers, Laurent Yahi, (PTA Treasurer).

**Previous Actions:**

**AO:** I'm working with the ASG, a meeting is due to take place with the other PC chairs and Fiona Robertson, discussions will focus around blended learning and August 2020.

**L.RB:** Active Schools is on hold and won't be contacted until Aug 2020.

**L.R (HT):** The homework policy was to be discussed this term but due to current situations this will now be looked at next session.

**Chair's Report:** AO shared slides on screen about the Parent Council's objectives and accountability. AO described the work of the Parent Council to date this year:

**2019 June - December:**

- successfully campaigned to retain school bus transport for P7 pupils to high school;
- strengthened links with Active Schools and the Music Tuition Working Group;
- compiled c.480 homework kits for every P1-P7 pupil as well as making up school uniform packs under the Cost of the School Day project;
- fed back to school on new handbook and Vision Values & Aims and raised issues such as playground safety and security, toilet facilities and unsafe care parking;
- directed parents to Scot Gov review of ASL support in schools and shared Music Tuition Pupil/Parent Survey & update on MLC Polling Places review and updated on school extension & estate.

## **2020 January - June:**

- Highlighted information from Enquire re. Staged intervention for ASL & shared Authority request for parent/carer experiences of transitions (evaluation);
- posted reminders re Parent Consultations & promoted school's P6/7 recruitment drive for helpers for school play;
- Parent Volunteers helped with food donations & bagging up;
- Used Facebook page to increase frequency and relevance of communications with parent/carer forum in light of COVID-19 to keep parents up to date and amplify important communications from school, local authority, govt and NHS and signposted to school app and website for updates on COVID planning;
- Supported distance learning by sharing links to technology support, tips for learning at home, social stories, good news, KP staff video, 'Thanks to Teachers', NHS/MLC & Govt guidance;
- Promoted surveys from school, Connect & Local Authority.

**AO** acknowledged an exceptional year, thanked our school (Head Teacher, school management team, teaching & support staff and administrative, kitchen and janitorial staff) who facilitate our efforts and work so hard for our children and our school; our parents & carers and wider school community and our partners on the school PTA committee for their vital fundraising.

## **PTA Report:**

**LY:** Slide shown. All monies checked and finalised for the year. The amount is significantly lower than normal due to no summer fair. Most of the spends this year have been for subscriptions such as Seesaw, Sumdog, and the Numicon numeracy project led by Julie Findlay. There will also be a leaving gift for the P7's of a yearbook. P1 bags will also be provided as usual as the P1 teachers have said that these are helpful for keeping work tidy.. COVID-19 has had a massive impact on funds as PTA is down by around £3000.

**AO:** Could we set up a Go Fund Me page? Other schools do this for fundraising.

**LY:** Concerned about stretching people at this time regarding money

and PTA will take guidance on fundraising from the school.

**EC:** Can each class organise an online quiz?, a fee to join?, but not make this compulsory.

**LB:** A back to school quiz may be a better idea as more time to organise.

**LD:** Can we use the Thrift Shop to make up uniform packs for parents? There will be time needed to sort through the amount of clothes and helpers will be needed for this.

Also the shed roof may be leaking so this will need fixed.

**AO:** For the coming year the PTA and the PC could work more closely together due to the current situation.

## **Headteacher Report**

**LR:** Keeping this report focused on the current COVID situation, and we can meet again to look at the other aspects of the report at a later date.

Fully aware of how challenging this time is both for parents and the children. Thanks to everyone for juggling home life, work, and homeschooling.

A huge Thanks to the PTA for their continued support and funds.

The achievements for the current time are ongoing. Staff are working from home as well as now being in school planning for next session. Staff have gained confidence in online learning and gained confidence in Seesaw. Planning the lessons has been a massive task for staff and they have coped well with this. Midlothian Council have advised not to do virtual lessons and this was also guidance from the unions. Children have been open and asking teachers for help through Seesaw. JF has now set up all nursery children with a Seesaw account so they now also access small activities. Support for Learning has also been doing individual sessions with some children through Seesaw. Check-ins are also being carried out with families with ASN and also vulnerable families. Learning Assistants are being directed to certain families for added support. This will not replicate school but we will continue to help and support each child's learning. The school has been helping families with food parcels.

The Woodburn Hub has been working well and providing critical child

care for Keyworker's children. All the ASG primary schools have been involved and there is a positive ethos going to parents. There was concern for some vulnerable families so the Hub now operates a small Nurture group that children can attend.

Communication has been difficult at times but the vulnerable families have been identified and are supported with phone calls from SLT. The ASN families have had a learning assistant assigned to them and they will deliver support when needed. Support packs have been delivered to some of these families by the LA.

The new SCOT ED school app was launched and it has been working well. ZO has worked hard to get this up and running. The communication through this has been better and the feedback from has been good.

Emails to parents are still underway. Meetings with staff are still happening but virtually.

Stationery supplies were put into local shops for parents to collect when needed, pencils, rubbers, jotters etc.

Teachers have been making individual work packs for families that may not have internet or device access.

Doorstep visits have taken place and lunches have been delivered.

The P1/7 transitions are still taking place, albeit different. The P7's will be welcomed back for a visit. The P1's will have a 90 minute visit as part of transition. Enhanced transitions are being planned and there will be Social Stories provided for children with ASN.

The SLT have taken on different roles within the council over this time, ZO has taken an active approach in a leadership role, JF has been working closely with all Early Years, and LR is part of the strategic planning group for the council during this time.

The situation remains challenging and information is yet to be confirmed from the council, who are in turn waiting on government guidelines. Schools still don't have all the information needed to make solid plans for next session.

All the Risk Assessments have been carried out regarding the classroom allowance for the coming year at the 2m distance ruling.

It is very difficult for King's Park owing to how the school is set out and the size of rooms, other accommodation is having to be looked at within Dalkeith.

The council has extra funding for the cleaning of the school to ensure door handles etc are cleaned more often.

Staffing remains challenging as certain staff are isolating, shielding etc. All information regarding classes, staffing etc will be put out to parents next week.

All parents received a letter from Fiona Robertson and the key priority will be the Recovery programme. The 'Midlothian Promise' also went out to parents last week. The blended learning attendance model will be

Mon/Tues or Wed/Thurs, with Fridays for children with ASN and vulnerable pupils, but this may look more like a Hub model.

The Blended learning approach will be called **Inhome Inschool learning**.

Want to make sure that there is a continuum between the classroom and home so there is a consistency to learning.

A nurture approach will be adopted for the children in return and dealing with the unknown will be acknowledged to the children.

A focus on Literacy, Numeracy and Healthy and Wellbeing.

Children will still be assessed in line with National Guidelines.

Siblings will be attending school together.

Most children will attend as much as possible but until further guidance is out from MC then further planning can't happen at this stage.

The approach for the next session regarding teachers is that teachers will have year groups rather than a class, due to the new model at this time.

School uniform policy will be relaxed, however it needs to be decided what is appropriate to wear to school. There will still be no football colours etc.

There will be staggered starts for pupils in the morning and at pick up and parents will be asked not to stand in the playground.

There will be an emphasis on outdoor learning as much as possible.

Parent Council support will be needed and appreciated when school starts back.

50% of the school roll is 25 classes. There will not be a nurture room but check ins will be conducted by a trusted adult to that child.

There will be very limited movement of pupils.

Work will be marked through Seesaw and feedback will be given. School will focus on ensuring that the child can adapt in unfamiliar settings and continue their learning.

Further guidance to follow regarding parents that are shielding.

Partner providers have not been looked at at the moment regarding siblings attendance.

### **John Hackett update on school estate:**

The school estate has still to be looked at and it has not been forgotten. It does look very positive and there are announcements to come regarding this.

Disappointed to hear about the no live video allowed regarding learning. Will look into this with the council as online learning evidence suggests that it works well.

Funding is available for free school meals for the vulnerable families

only, so not P1-3. The Hubs will stay open over the summer.

**LR: PEF;** Some of the PEF money has had to go towards funding unfortunately. A 3.24% top slice has been levied by the council so KPPS have £66k left for the year ahead. There will be a focus on Literacy and numeracy.

**JH:** Very uncomfortable with the PEF cut. This meant to target inequality.

**LR:** Parents could start to help from August. Maybe set up virtual subgroups to take some actions forward. Not all parents will agree with my decisions and choices so it would be great to have the PC on board to reinforce communications and help parents understand the reasoning behind certain decisions.

We will need to promote #KingsParkCares and Wellbeing Wednesday with the aim of developing our Community Spirit.

**AOB:**

**AO** Thanked **LR** and all participants for attending the virtual AGM and issued the date for the first Parent Council meeting of the new 2020/21 term set for **Wednesday 9th September 2020**.

**Comments from parent/carer participants in the Zoom Chatbox were saved in a transcript and supplied to LR and participants after the meeting.**

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**ends.**