

## Kings Park Primary School Parent Council

### Zoom Meeting Minutes Wednesday 7th December 2020

**Present:** Emily Cairns (minutes); Diana Challands (PTA Chair); Louise Duff; Karlyn Durrant (Secretary); Joanne Hellen; Jasmine Mailley LaPointe; Aoibhe O'Callaghan (Chair); Zoe Orr (Deputy Head); Robbie Pearson; Laurinda Renton (Headteacher); Sara Scott; Emma Wilson.

**Apologies:** Jillian Phair, Barbara O'Laughlin, Leila Raeburn.

#### Actions from previous meeting:

**Recycling:** ZO updated us regarding current school recycling. There are 3 recycling bins in each class. Mr Burt (Janitor) states that straws and wrappers go to general waste and empty cartons go to recycling bin.

Council recycling spokesperson has confirmed however that if there is any milk in the cartons once received by the recycling unit, the whole batch is dumped. Stats from the council suggest that only 4 out of 33 schools have managed uncontaminated batches.

This topic needs further discussion around practicalities and the school Eco Group could be involved.

**ACTION: ZO** to investigate practicalities of having eco group involvement in recycling awareness. Also discuss with facilities whether a collection spot could be identified at school.

**Instrumental tuition:** tuition is going ahead with tuition spaces in school now identified. ZO states that the teachers are visiting weekly.

There are tutorials on YouTube from Midlothian Council's Digital team that can help parents and pupils navigate Glow and Seesaw.

The passwords need to be changed every 6 weeks which has caused some confusion.

**Bus transport:** we await further update from Fiona Robertson who was to liaise with Derek Oliver. Aoibhe is chasing this.

**Homework:** Homework is not as relevant while children are at home but Jillian Phair is to be parent contact for homework and will set up a sub group in the New Year to seek views and expectations from parents, teachers and pupils. A homework policy will be formulated for the new academic year in preparation for school return.

**Apps/Phones/Social Media:** AOC sent some very helpful information to the sub group. No progress has been made as yet.

**ACTION:** to be revisited in the new year.

### **PTA update:**

£900 has been raised for the Christmas Raffle. Tickets available via PayPal until Friday.

**BOL** has negotiated a £5,000 donation from Dandara, to be matched by the PTA (now confirmed).

The money is allocated to 7 Chromebooks and outdoor learning shelters.

Dandara requested a publicity photo of children using the Chromebooks.

Rachel Tulloch from the Council has approved the shelters and two shelters per class will be required (awaiting response from RT).

**LR** highlights that this is a longer term project as it is not in the original School Improvement Plan.

Timelines need to be realistic. When to build, groundworks, duration of build, location, seating requirements all need to be considered. With regards to the school extension plans, the shelters can be relocated in the future so this is not prohibitive.

There have been lots of positive comments on the Facebook page about the shelters so parents are in favour which should hopefully mean that there will be volunteers available for when we need a working group to represent the project.

**Action: BOL** and **DC** continue to progress plans with **LR** and RT regarding site survey, location and costings.

**LR** requests PTA funds for technology. **AOC** and **LR** discussed the funding provided by the Scottish Government and how much the school needs to supply. The school needs to supply Chromebooks, which are used for Additional Support Needs and which are also used later on by P7s in High School so better for continuity. Chromebooks provided by the Scottish Government are to support home-based/blended learning and go straight home with the pupils.

**DC** confirms that there is £7k for technology (£350 per iPad).

**Christmas Tree fundraiser** idea has been postponed but remains a possibility for 2021.

**AOC** congratulated the PTA - despite challenges and Covid restrictions it has been a successful term for fundraising.

### **Headteacher Update:**

**Christmas** plans have been relayed to parents. The senior leadership team and staff are trying to make the school a great place to be over Christmas. School have asked the PTA to fund popcorn for productions the children will watch.

There has been an authority-wide requirement for parents to sign a permission slip for filming in-class productions.

There will be a **virtual Open Day** where each class will showcase an element of the improvement plan, and each class will produce their project material.

Ms Griffiths will produce an iMovie to be released pre Christmas.

These will be shared via Seesaw.

## **School Development Plan**

Mrs Findlay led a numeracy session with teachers, looking at assessment.

**Covid-19** There is no relaxation of restrictions as we still sit in Tier 3. There will be no Christmas parties in school, and all will be held online. PE has different rules but the hall is being used for Support for Learning with distancing, so cannot be used for contact sports or parties.

**ZO** discussed the ongoing learning from “**What a Good Lesson Looks Like**”, the School Improvement Plan and how to reach their targets. They are focussing on use of **Seesaw** and exploring best practice around ‘What a good Seesaw post looks like’.

This question will be expanded out to parents, children and staff. The requirement for clear boundaries regarding the use of Seesaw was reiterated. What is acceptable as home learning on Seesaw is to be included in the Homework project.

**ZO** stated that they are still seeking further views from parents and teachers regarding the revised **Reporting system**.

**LR** went on to introduce **Amy Kay** as the new Principal Teacher. Amy will oversee Pupil Equity Funding. Supporting children across the school will be a part of her role as she has no in-class teaching hours. She will be providing additional training in ASN for three learning assistants as part of efforts to close the attainment gap.

**LR** reminded that any families in need can contact Mrs Porteous in the school office for assistance with grants, council support, funds and referral for **food parcels**. There is currently a waiting list as there have been many requests.

The **Storehouse** charity has not been donated to this year as there was no Winter Harvest due to Covid restrictions.

### **ASN Review:**

**AOC** introduced questions from the Midlothian Education team who are seeking views on ASN provision and representation of parents with ASN children at Parent Council.

**LR** explained that there has been an increase in the number of children with ASN with a presumption to mainstream schooling. King’s Park puts universal supports in place to remove barriers to learning. Additional supports may be put in by the class teacher for example differentiated learning; the classroom teacher taking pupils in groups. The next tier of support would be involvement of Additional Support for Learning teachers, liaising with the class teacher. The next tier of additional support may involve support from outside agencies eg the council’s educational psychologist, OT, CAMHS, Community Child Health, Speech & Language Therapy. The educational psychologist observes the child in class, and recommends onward referral if required. Parents will know well in advance if this route is suitable for their child.

When there are significant needs there are termly meetings with parents and partner agencies where they agree desired outcomes and map out plans. Teachers are now much clearer on recognising needs and what avenues to go down. Complex Needs may require Burnbrae referral or shared placement, and this is with parental consent.

Andrew Sheridan from Midlothian Council had four questions which will feed into ASN review at National level.

**EW** stated that last year there was an informal PC ASN subgroup which supported parents but it was difficult to manage the expectations as these families need so much support.

**LR** stated she was willing to promote a support group as connection is so important, however while parents can share learning/available resources where it is helpful, the school has to be more careful and considered about what it shares.

**EW** said she is happy to share her experiences, for example her child struggled with break times and lining up so having alternatives are important eg make boxes with Sudoku/Lego/Origami for those who prefer to avoid the playground at break time.

**EW** discussed that Child Planning meetings are full of information and it's hard to take it all on board. An infographic to show timelines or pathways for interventions plus leaflets on local supports such as Bright Sparks would be excellent.

The school handbook has some of this information. **ZO** feels that the ScotEd app is the best place to have relevant information as it is easier to update.

**AOC** asked if additional resources, links and info could be added to the website and app.

There are ongoing school conversations such as Odd Socks Day to raise awareness and celebrate neurodiversity and differences. Education in the school community can help with tolerance, understanding and support. However, it was pointed out that lots of people don't wish to draw attention to, or be defined by their additional needs, so there is a balance to be met. The Scottish Government's campaign to support carers was discussed.

**LD** stated that CAMHS have lots of great advice, once you are in the system but there is a long wait to engage with them. She also brought up the issue of wanting to advocate for your child whilst supporting others. She highlighted the importance of supporting the school to support children. She congratulated the school's efforts under the current headship to make improvements in how children are supported.

**AOC** asked what the biggest challenges were and **EW** replied that the limited outdoor space is the biggest issue. Outdoor learning is really beneficial for those with ASN as for many, sensory issues are reduced when able to move freely outside.

**LR** confirmed that space inside the school was a concern and a challenge when managing space and resources for pupils with ASN.

**LD** had contacted other parents on these ASN questions and feedback was that the Primary to Secondary Transition, and transitions generally between years were really difficult. There was a lack of sharing of information and equipment needs.

**LR** confirmed that there are dedicated CAT sessions at the end of the year where all this information is shared, with paperwork and a face to face meeting from teacher to teacher.

It was agreed that it is important to inform and reassure parents/carers about this process and anticipate their and their children's concerns as it can be a source of anxiety.

**LR** referred to the enhanced transitions put in place last June for ASN pupils who were supported in meeting their new teachers and given social stories detailing what to expect.

**AOC** closed the meeting with seasonal good wishes and thanks to all for their contributions.

### **AOB**

- Reminder of the PTA virtual Christmas parties to be held this week.
- Date of next meeting: February 2020