

Braidburn Parent Council



Office Bearers:

Chairman: Leigh Ferrand
Vice Chair: Gail Morris

Secretary: Lesley Munro
Treasurer: Kirsty Watt

Minutes of Braidburn Parent Council

Date of Meeting 08 June 2020

Present at Meeting

Rachel Bhandari (RB) Parent
Kirsty Watt (KW) Parent
Effie Fenton (EF) Parent
Rosie Barclay (RoB) Co-opted member
Lesley Munro (LM) Parent
Leigh Ferrand (LF) Parent
Liz McDonald (LMcD) Parent
Serena Coyle (SC) Parent
Gail Morris (GM) Parent
Cat Weir (CW) Braidburn School
Lesley Liddle (LL) Braidburn School
Becky Wallace (BW) Braidburn School
Carol Munro (CM) Braidburn School

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Clare Angus and Jill Spence.

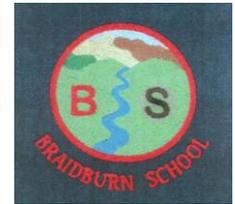
2. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. LM informed the team that her action regarding First Aid classes was on hold, however, St Andrews Ambulance are currently offering basic classes on line for £15 and Glasgow University are offering free on line classes.

3. Home Schooling and contact with teachers

GM is happy with provision but raised the point that not everybody is on Twitter so they miss certain items. CW and CM confirmed that all videos etc. are loaded on to the school website for

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viewing and then automatically fed through to Twitter and Facebook, so they are available on all 3 platforms.

AG confirmed that when communicating via Microsoft Teams, Special Schools are being prioritised for allowing 2-way video so learners can see their teachers/PSAs and vice versa.

RB asked if there could be a wider range of level that the videos are pitched at. RW confirmed that there would be some videos coming out in the near future that would be aimed at secondary level.

SC highlighted that her child enjoyed visual interaction and pointed out it can be difficult to keep learners focussed if siblings are around. Some parents found it difficult to get online and also made some suggestions for topics to be covered.

LF pointed out that some learners would like to see their PSA on line and see some signing. CW and AG pointed out that CEC staff cannot use their own devices to communicate with children as this is against CEC IT policy. Teachers have all been supplied with phones from the CEC and teachers are also using class i Pads. AG suggested that she could look at redistributing CEC phones and i pads across teachers and PSAs so that learners can have a greater level of interaction with all school staff via technology when using blended learning. **Action AG/CW**

LMcD confirmed that she has had a very positive experience with accessing home learning and enjoyed the recent opportunity to go into the classroom to see the learning taking place in the class.

KW suggested that we could have complete class get togethers on an on line platform so learners could see each other during blended learning. LF offered to look into this using Go To meetings and putting link on Parents and Carers FaceBook page. **Action LF**

4. Summer provision

Braidburn will be the hub for the children of Key Workers who have additional needs over the summer holidays. The Head of Social Work will be at the next CCwP meeting (Tuesday 16th June) and LF will ask more details about this provision. **Action LF**

5. Plans around return to school in August

At the recent CCwP the rollout of plans for return to school in August were discussed. The plan will be discussed by senior CEC management, then Head Teachers will personalise the plan to their individual school and consult with parents. A survey of parents/carers has been issued by CCwP to capture their thoughts. LF suggested that a group of parents/carers who are interested in

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giving feedback on the plans to return to school meet on line the week commencing Monday 15th June.

Action LF

KW asked about the return to school of children who fall into the shielding category. CW confirmed that the school were receiving data on the number of shielded learners. KW then asked if shielded learners would be allocated their own room as similar happens if they are admitted to hospital. AG said that advice would be taken from NHS on how best to support shielded learners in school.

Confirmation was given that there will be no contact between school and parents/carers over the school holiday, although AG will be around. GM pointed out that some learners and their families will struggle with no contact over the holidays.

6. Capturing parents/carers' views via school communication channels.

A survey was circulated by the Parent Council to capture parents and carers' views over the school closure and return next session. 30 parents and carers had replied within a few hours and issues raised were: some learners' mental health was suffering with incidences of seizures up and medics suggesting this is due to stress and anxiety from not being in normal school routine; high proportion of respondents feel they are not managing with home learning and don't feel they can manage past August; CEC not able to provide pre planned emergency respite cover when sole carer is ill; substantial number of parents/carers are prepared to send learners back in August even if school environment is not 100% Covid safe as they see that as being their only chance to survive.

7. Braidburn Parent Council Matters

7.1 Edinburgh Parent Council Network

RB reported that John Swinny had taken part in an online meeting with parent representatives. It would appear that a lot of decisions regarding blended learning and provision of hubs etc. was being deferred by the government to local authorities to do what they think best and leading to a possible postcode lottery in provision and assistance.

7.2 Special Schools City Wide Locality Meetings

It was highlighted at this meeting that learners in Special Schools have a poor concept of social distancing and this needs to be borne in mind in plans for the return to school in August. For provision and support over the summer holidays Social Work will be the key point of contact.

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7.3 **CCwP**

It was pointed out at this meeting by the unions that if the government want the schools to resume early in the week commencing 10th August, then teachers will require an extra week of holiday. The first 2 days of the week commencing Monday 10th August will be in service days. Real time on line video teaching would not be allowed by the teaching unions as no risk management as taken place.

7.4 **Finance Update**

KW provided an update on the finances. Very little movement since our last meeting. Bank balance is at £1452.14 and The Story Bag Team still have funds available.

8. Headteacher and Friends of Braidburn update

A copy of this report is attached.

9. Update on review of constitution

LM has compiled a document to show suggested updates to the constitution and the job specifications for the main roles. LM will circulate before the next meeting and any further comments can be collected from individual members of the Parent Council by email before our next meeting.

Action LM

10. Chair and Vice Chair positions between now and next AGM

RB had agreed to stay in post until June. The PC thanked Rachel for all her hard work over the previous years. GM offered to fill the position temporarily until the AGM next term. KW proposed GM and LM seconded GM.

11. Confirmation of dates of future meetings and AGM in 2020

Once we have the dates for next sessions' CCwP and Special Schools City Wide Locality Meetings we can confirm our future meeting dates and date of AGM.