

Williamston Primary School

Parent Council Meeting

Monday 14th September 2020 7pm – 8.30 pm via Zoom

Apologies: Lisamarie Purdie (Education Officer for Parental Engagement WL Council)

Chair: Andy Walker

Secretary: Lindsay Gibson

Meeting was attended by 31 people in total.

1. Welcome and update from Andy PC Chair
2. **Update from Head Teacher**
 - Learning Environment – the school has been completely tidied, and cleared of clutter and it looks different.
 - As we move to the winter months the amount of outdoor learning and time spent outside will change and we will look to be indoors and we are looking at areas we can utilise in these circumstance.
 - We have sourced an additional lunch table for the dinner hall this has been arranged to be delivered to the school asap.
 - We have been lucky to have had two picnic tables for outdoor use bought for the school by the PSA and these should be arriving in October. One of the tables is wheelchair accessible.
 - We have a new plan for the playgrounds after the September weekend. The plan will be to get the P6/7 off the field and onto the tarmac and the playgrounds will be based on age. And numbers
 - We are continually looking at the End of day arrangements with regards to the car park and the potential to close the car park completely. We are in communication with Police Scotland and with the Council regarding the traffic on Bankton Lane. We will speak with the Road Safety Team for their suggestions also.
 - We are also still looking at an alternative for the pick-up of P3/4 children rather than the field. Again this is an ongoing discussion and any ideas would be greatly received.
 - Going forward, we will be losing some car parking spaces in the car park as a risk assessment was carried out and we require bigger bins which will then take up spaces in the car park. We will have a separate meeting to discuss the car park on its own.
 - The position for the Deputy Head closed on Monday. We have had considerable interest and Lisa Marie Purdie (WLC) and Jane Livingston will meet on 23rd to review applications. The Parent Council will also have an input on this process and will meet with Lisa Marie also regarding the recruitment process. Lisamaria and I met on 14th to review the applications. The long leet interviews are the 23 September.
 - At present there are no plans for any P7 trips. However this is a continually changing environment and will be reviewed every so often.
3. **Update from Councillor Fitzpatrick**
 - The 'back to school' date was moved from the 18th August to the 10th August at relatively short notice by the Scottish Government. Teachers were given one week

to prepare to bring our schools back safely and I would like to Thank You all for the tremendous amount of work you all put in, working on your holidays too, to ensure the return to our schools were safe.

- Donna McMaster, Head of Education at WLC has stepped down from her role. Greg Welsh is taking over for the Primary Education and Catrina Hatch will be overseeing the Secondary Education.
- Free school meals will be provided for children who require it over the holidays. The pick-up locations will be Bellsquarry Primary, Bankton Primary and St Margaret's Academy.
- School session dates for 2021/2022 have been amended and are available on the WLC Website
- Early Learning Childcare – this should have been 1140 hours however due to Covid we only managed to offer 1000 hours. Be assured that by the end of November you will have access to 1140 hours of free childcare.
- There will be a closure to the footbridge between Bankton Lane towards the viaduct due to the area being water logged in the coming weeks.
- A pelican crossing will be installed at a cost of £46k from Robins Lane to East Bankton to ensure we have safer footpaths and safer routes to school.

4. **Nominations of persons attending DHT Interview Process**

- This was not discussed and will be discussed at a later date.
- PC has 5 members attending interview training on Thursday the 1st of October. When dates and times of interviews are known those best placed to attend will be chosen.
- 1 non-PC member had offered to attend the training and be on standby should the PC members be unable to attend the interviews. This person has subsequently withdrawn this offer as one of the applicants to the role is known to them.

5. **Year Rep Updates**

- Some parents are concerned about P1's not eating their lunch. There are 7 PSW and 3 SLT supervising at lunchtimes. Lunch is from 11.45 to 1.30pm due to the staggered lunch breaks. Staff are doing their best to check and are encouraging the children to take all the food they don't eat home with them and not to put it in the bin. Some children do seem to have too much food in their packed lunches. If any individual family are still concerned about their child not eating lunch, please contact the school directly.
- Milk is delivered every day and has only been delayed twice since we returned. If you have paid for milk then your child should be receiving milk every day.
- Children are required to stay in a 'class bubble' or 'group.' This is due to Covid contact tracing arrangements.
- The speed of children on bikes at the end of the day will be re-iterated to the children as it appears they are still going too fast around the school grounds. The situation in the morning seems to have improved
- The windows in classrooms are to remain open into the winter months and the heating will remain on. Children are required to come prepared with layers.
- Outdoor learning is happening, and PE classes are held outdoors also.
- Elaine Kinloch has kindly volunteered to be the new Nursery rep. Welcome aboard Elaine.

6. **Finance & Fundraising Update (Lyndsay Swan & Andy Walker)**

- Current Balance = £1500. The PSA funded two new benches at a cost of £1460 which should arrive by 6th October.
- The PSA paid £1000 to Kids Gone Wild
- The PSA also funded the P7 yearbooks at a cost of £424.
- Easy fundraising made c£90.
- We will be looking at fundraising ideas e.g. Quiz/bingo and there will be a separate meeting to generate innovative ideas for raising money.

7. **Communications (Andy Walker)**

Lots of communication at the beginning of term from the school and through various social media platforms, mostly Facebook. To avoid any communication misunderstandings Facebook updates were stopped/minimised to allow all communications to come directly from the school. Social media was still useful in gathering feedback which was subsequently fed back to the school.

School App is being utilised by more and more of the classes, which is great. We now have over 700 downloads of the app.

Twitter also being used much more by the school which also feeds into the news items on the School App.

Parent Council section of the school website is being updated.

8. **STEAM and Grants SubGroups**

No updates currently.

All meeting agenda, minutes and the head teachers report are all available on the school website...

<https://williamstonprimary.westlothian.org.uk/article/64972/2020-2021-Session>

Next Meeting Date – Tuesday 10th November 2020