

Williamston Primary School Parent Council Meeting – Monday 17.05.21

Attendees:

Andy Walker – PC Chair, Jane Livingston – Headteacher, Maree Young – Deputy Headteacher, Councillor Laurence Fitzpatrick, Elaine Kinloch – Nursery Rep, Jennifer Ross P1 and P6 Rep, Natalie McGowan – P2 Rep, Gemma Taylor – P4 Rep, Lesley Dunlop – P5 Rep, Alison Elliot – P7 Rep, Various other parents/carers.

Update from Cllr - LF

- Cedarbank School campus construction has started.
- Lots of building work going on in the area. Rules are now relaxed and construction is now allowed from 7am, instead of 8am.
- Lots of community litter pickers in the area, who work in tandem with WLC Operational Services. All litter picked goes to landfill, which the taxpayer pays for. This is a shame as much of the litter could have been recycled.
- WLC have advertised 2 dozen apprenticeships such as electricians, huge response to these.
- An East Calder Councillor (for over 30 years) has sadly passed away.
- Large pay problem across Local Authorities to provide a pay increase to public authority workers, as only have enough to provide a 2% increase.
- Vaccine figures for the local authority: 64% population have had 1st dose, 29% have had 2nd.
- Economic development update: major problem is procurement, as supply is an issue and prices are zooming up across the globe.
- New smoke alarm legislation due Feb 2022. Concern that there is not enough kit or electricians available for all homes to be done in time. Looking for extension.
- Audit Scotland league tables report: WCHS was most improved school in whole of Scotland.
- Photomaths: a useful website for helping your child with their homework.

Headteacher Update

- Headteacher report and building work plans were circulated prior to this meeting.
- Covid update: Advice to headteachers is to remain extremely cautious. PE to remain outdoors, equipment to be wiped down between uses, maintain all class and year group bubbles.
- Staffing update: No budgets available yet to confirm staff situation but can make some assumptions and provisional plans. There is ongoing staff absence and supply teachers are expensive. Mrs Stephens is retiring. Karlie Gray is returning from maternity leave and will resume role as Principal Teacher alongside Mrs Thomson. Mrs Ogg was an acting secondment and there is no position for her to stay. Can confirm that SFL post will be a full-time staff member.
- End of term reports will be issued 31st May, with parental consultations on 9th and 10th June.
- There will be enhanced transition for P7, but don't know yet whether there will be real or virtual visits.
- New school year will have 15 classes, including some composites. Staff, children and parents have all been consulted. WLC has a composite class policy, looking at age and gender balance as well as individual child needs when deciding classes. The minimum number of one year group in a composite class is currently 4.
- Meet the teacher is planned for 21st June with classes meeting outdoors, with enhanced transition for identified children on the 22nd.
- There will be two meet the teacher sessions for new P1s. One for inhouse nursery children and one for those from external **settings**.
- There will be Sways for the new P1s and for the whole school - showing the new school layout.
- P7s will be having a Covid-safe send-off.

- School budget will be confirmed by the end of May.
- School building works are now out to tender. The current SFL room will be a new classroom and SFL will move to what used to be the library.
- Car park issues: Poor weather has a negative impact on the car park use. Mrs Young is being brave and direct with parents/carers who are not sticking to the rules. Think this approach is having an impact. Parent Council members can help re-enforce the car park rules. **ACTION ALL**
- Issues in the car park have an impact on the start of the school day, unsettling late arriving children, with lunches are already ordered and work started. More information could be provided to parents to emphasise the importance of children getting to school on time. **ACTION HT/DHT**

PC Finance Update

Current bank balance is £2655.41. There is a few hundred due out for P7 yearbooks. Only money currently coming in is via Easy Fundraising.

PC Fundraising Update

Nothing new to report. Thinking of ideas for Christmas. Will pick up on this in the new term.

PC Communications Update

Several members noted that there seems to be multiple ways information is being sent out by the school, eg Seesaw for some, App for others. Everyone agreed that this has improved and hopefully will continue to.

PC STEAM Update

Outstanding role for someone to head this sub-committee.

PC Grants Update

Hopefully sources of funding can be looked at next term.

Nursery Update – EK

EK asked about how to change child's allocated days at nursery. MY confirmed this is through WLC Pupil Placement.

P1 Update – JR

JR asked about the taking of class photos by the class teachers. JL confirmed that photos had been taken but that permissions now must be checked before photos issued. JL confirmed that photographers are still not permitted into schools.

JR also asked about the possibility of a sports day. JLL confirmed that Mrs Howard was planning some small scale class events.

P2 Update – NM

NM brought up the issue of bike racks not being adequate for use. GT also commented on this issue. FL suggested a working group be set up to consider options.

ACTION HT/DHT/PC

P3 Update – JR

JR brought up the toilet issue again. JL agreed that main issue seems to be the current P3s toilets, which have ingrained grime and are very smelly. Cleaners are limited in products they can use so they don't interfere with the electrostatic spraying for Covid. Upgraded these toilets are not in the current building works. JL to speak to cleaning manager about options and the building works team about timescales for improvements. **ACTION HT**

P4 Update – no issues

P5 Update – no issues

P6 Update – JR

JR asked about the current P6s being buddies in P7. JL responded that it's an unknown. Have plans in place and will adapt as and when. Hoping there can be some sort of buddy system as well as something between P2s (current P1s) and P6s (current P5s).

P7 Update – no issues

AOB

- PE kit: Positive = Beneficial in not having to change before and after PE, reduces lost learning time. Negative = Some children experiencing unkind comments on brands/styles of clothes as the kit required is not currently strict. JL responded that will may be a review on PE uniform.
- Parental Engagement: Brand new parental engagement plan ready to launch.
- Dog on steps = JL, AW and JR have all spoken to the individual concerned with limited engagement. All agreed this cannot continue, as causing an obstruction, trip hazard and source of distress to many. Rules cannot be amended for one parent. **ACTION ALL**
- Picnic tables: Require volunteers to assist janitor, possibly at weekends. AE volunteered Fraser Elliot.
- Suggestion of a collection/gift for Mrs Stephens. Her last day is 24th June.

