

Note of PC Meeting – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Williamston Primary

**APPOLOGIES** - Andy Walker, Jennifer Ross, Natalie McGowan, Gemma Taylor

**ATTENDEES**– Jane Dunlop, Lesley Dunlop, Victoria Finch, Alison Eliot, Claire Stanfield, Jenny Denheen

**TEACHING STAFF** – Mrs Jane Livingston (Williamston HT) Mrs Marie Young (Williamston DHT)

**GUESTS** - Nicola Gill (WLC Public Transport Manager), Greg Welsh (WLC Head of Education)

Lawrence Fitzpatrick (WLC Livingston South Elected Member)

### **OPENING OF MEETING BY VICE-CHAIR**

Jane welcomed everyone to the meeting. Thanked everyone for their attendance and introduced guests to the meeting.

### **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

The following was noted -

- Transfer of Treasurer role – ACTION Andy, Lyndsay – ONGOING
- Contact persons regards STEM involvement with school – **ACTION Andy – ONGOING**
- Transfer of funds to School for new Smart boards – **ACTION Andy, Lyndsay - COMPLETE**

### **SCHOOL BUS PROVISION**

Update was provided by Nicola Gill, Public Transport Manager, West Lothian Council regards School Busses.

NG outlined the current criteria for free bus provision. This can be found on the WLC website. WLC provision is more generous than the statutory level. As the bus capacity is currently more than the entitlement, fare paying tickets are sold. WLC have increased the size of the bus from 55 to 70, however this is only due to availability on the part of the supplier.

There are 50 seats available for fare paying – 15 term tickets and 35 weekly tickets.

There was a question asked regarding the thinking behind this split and NG provided comment, reasons included providing a variety of tickets to allow parents to purchase weekly or termly if required.

The use of the bus and purchase of tickets is being monitored and it is acknowledged that tickets sell out fast.

The cost covered by tickets does not cover anywhere near the cost of a bus therefore putting on an additional bus is not a viable option.

Weekly tickets go on sale on a Wednesday at 12pm.

Smart ticketing is being developed at WLC.

### **UPDATE FROM COUNCILLOR FITZPATRICK**

LF provided a short update on attainment. He advised that Williamston had recently carried out a self-evaluation, and it was noted that pupils are achieving at good levels. There had been some notable outstanding achievements.

### **CAR PARK AND SCHOOL ACCESS**

Greg Welsh WLC Head of Education (EY, Primary and Resources) provided an overview of a number of issues surrounding access to the school. There have been issues with car park and behaviour of those using the car park for a number of years. WLC have been working with WPS HT to develop alternative access strategies.

Initially it was decided that trial closing the car park would be undertaken, however concerns about displacement of traffic were raised, therefore traffic management has been revisited.

A number of options have been looked at including the path network, walking buses and “safe ways” to schools.

GW shared two possible changes to the parking area which included echelon parking. Both the options included additional parking. There was good discussion around the plans.

Road markings and changes are generally done in holiday periods – ***ACTION :WPS Parent Council/SLT to get back to WLC with comments by end of October 2022 in order to plan changes if required, with a view to undertaking changes over the Xmas break.***

It was raised (by a parent rep) that she understood the main driver for reform was as a result of poor and aggressive behaviour from parents.

This was discussed and it was noted that there is a zero tolerance policy however it is acknowledged that the current issues in the car park can be contributory. The school have been trying to have a “light touch” when it comes to poor behaviour of parents however going forward it is possible that aggressive behaviour will be reported to the police. Hopefully the proposed improvements will facilitate better parking behaviour.

### **UPDATES FROM SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM (MRS LIVINGSTON AND MRS YOUNG)**

LT Update is available on the School Website.

Other matters that were covered –

Please be mindful of dressing appropriately for outdoor learning

Mrs Livingston advised the PC that there has been incidences of vandalism in the toilets. Pupils should be reminded to behave sensibly and look after the school facilities.

There is a lot of lost property, it is planned to have a “help yourself” day on a Friday.

It was noted that there had not been much progression on the application for fuming with SUSTRANS – **ACTION – JD to provide her email address to Mrs Livingston to progress this.**

### **AVAILABILITY OF WPS PC POSITIONS**

JD outlined the following vacancies/updates -

- a. Chair – This summer will see the end of the current Chairs 2-year tenure. Persons wishing to put their names forward should contact Andy, [thegingerjock@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thegingerjock@yahoo.co.uk)
- b. STEM Sub-Committee – Several people have come forward to help with this role.
- c. Grants Sub Committee – Looking for assistance in seeking out any funding opportunities for the school.

### **FINANCE UPDATE**

Currently have £1,651.23 in the PC Bank Account, looking to boost this this year with some “actual” fundraising activities.

### **SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- a. Fundraising - Meeting of Fundraising Committee to be arranged – **ACTION Andy Walker**
- b. Communications - No update at this time.
- c. STEM- No update at this time.
- d. Grants - Vicki Finch has identified a potential grant the school can apply for. This will be looked at and discussed with the school. VF advised she would develop this further with the school. **ACTION – Vicky Finch**

### **PARENT QUESTIONS**

A number of points had been raised and been responded to already. JD read out the following list :

- a. Uniform. What's on the website doesn't match what the school want. Can the website be updated?

Response from Andy Walker - I have updated the website which reads as follows. Any issues please let me know.

*SCHOOL UNIFORM We have a school uniform which we encourage children to wear. Sweatshirts, polo shirts, ties, fleeces, and reversible jackets can be ordered and purchased at any time during the year. Children should not wear jewellery to school in case they have an accident or in case the jewellery is lost. Jewellery including earrings must not be worn during PE classes. PE Kit: White polo or T-Shirt Black or grey leggings, joggers, or shorts School colour jumper, cardigan, or fleece Trainers - Wellington boots are not appropriate for PE Outdoor coat if going outside*

- b. Communication in general. The app seems to have some glitches plus not everyone seems to be able to use it. Maybe important things like the newsletter with dates of meet the teacher and changes to uniforms etc should be emailed out instead to ensure everyone gets the info.

Response from Mrs Livingston - We were continuing to use App for all comms, Seesaw and Teams for all learning. A parent has flagged up an issue with dates not pulling through on the app which Mary has been liaising with the company with.

- c. Free school meals for P6 and 7. When is it happening? It's overdue.

Response from Mrs Livingston – This is a decision for the Scottish Government, not school.

- d. Skiing for P6 – will this be going ahead?

Response from Mrs Livingston - We have focused on the P7 residential first and foremost. In looking at additional school-based learning opportunities, we have found it challenging to find providers that can accommodate numbers, have enough staff or are manageable. Examples include – school camps that can accommodate 66 and have enough instructors; outdoor education sessions for 11 children at a time only requiring 3 school staff to attend; some providers no longer offering options. We will continue to investigate options.

## **YEAR REP UPDATES**

- a. Nursery – Laura McMaster – Nothing raised.

- b. P1 – Jenny Denheen - Question regarding provision of treading books – School advised that Book Bug was the medium for reading in the lower school. There are other choices for reading books in leisure time/RAP time.

- c. P2 – Elaine Kinloch (Still Temporary)

- d. P3 - Jennifer Ross and Claire Stanfield

- e. P4 – Nat McGowan – Nothing Raised

- f. P5 – Jane Dunlop – Bus provision and afterschool clubs – both matters addressed in other parts of the meeting.

- g. P6 – Gemma Taylor -Can the challenges of trip provision please be discussed and what the likelihood is of various trips and activities taking place. Are there any plans to restart activities requiring parental assistance. – This question was answered previously (see above)

- h. P7 – Lesley Dunlop and Alison Elliot – Raised concerns about the meet the teachers evening. Mrs Livingston advised that the response was overwhelming and if she was doing it again she would do it very differently.

## **AOB**

JD raised the matter of after school clubs and noted that a number had recently been advertised. She asked if there was any provision for French? Unfortunately, there is not a suitable room in the school anymore. P7 are looking at setting up clubs and she is reviewing proposals at present; these are mainly lunchtime clubs and include chess and anime.

Mrs Livingston advised children were keen on the POW assembly and this would continue. She also advised that she would be looking into having a live panto and other autistic activities.

Mrs Livingston advised it is a special year for WPS, 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school opening and 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the rebuild since the fire. SLT asked for some ideas on how this could be celebrated/what should be celebrated.

## **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

Monday 12th September 2022 (Moved to Wednesday 28th September)

Tuesday 8th November 2022

Monday 23rd January 2023

Tuesday 21st March 2023

Monday 15th May 202