



Minutes

Priorsford Parent Council AGM

DATE

19th Sep 2024

TIME

18:00

IN ATTENDANCE

Susan Woodyer, Leigh Anderson, Stephen Crombie, Nicola McLellan, Caroline Skea, Heather McAndrew, Louise Ballantyne, Sarah Howie, Susan Cox, Hayley Barnett, Joanna Silvestri, Kate Gibson, Sam Barker, Lynsey Rennie, Jen Noble, Gillian Robson, Beth Christie, Natalie Jackson, Martin Nowak.

APPOLOGIES

Gillian Foley, Lucy Benjamin

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

All attendees introduced themselves and the minutes from the last meeting were approved.

OFFICE BEARER ELECTIONS

Stephen Crombie and Nicola McLellan stepped down as joint chairs and were re-elected

Secretary position is still to be filled

Kate Gibson stepped down and was re-elected as communications officer

Parent reps were re-elected to continue representing their year groups

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

Back to School, security, staffing update and classes:

- Susan informed the group that classes have settled back to school very well.
- Added security has been added to the school with a fob locking system to prevent anyone from being able to walk past the reception area of the school without being given a key fob. This also prevents children from being able to leave the school. Signage has been added to the door at the atrium to instruct all deliveries to deliver through the reception area for tracking.

- Staffing Updates: Rosie will be joining the school office team in Oct. Mr McDonald is leaving on 20th Sep and Susan is starting interviews for his post on Monday 23rd Sep.
- Susan highlighted to the group that the deadline has passed where there can be changes to the class numbers and therefore there will be no class changes for the rest of the year.

School Improvement Report/Plans:

- School improvement plan and report are complete and the school is in the process of creating a parent friendly version to share with parents.
- The SIP this year is focusing on the SBC way. Last year the school were engaging with the SBC way and this year the school will be implementing this with a focus on Talking and Listening and Health and Wellbeing.
- Moderation will also be a focus for this year, focusing on how the school moderate assessments of achievements and levels given to pupils.
- Showbie is a big focus for the school this year. The school are currently using Showbie and will be taking a measured and consistent approach on how and when to fully roll the use of Showbie out. Once rolled out there will be a class blog and an individual child portfolio. Showbie will initially be piloted in 1 class (P1/2 composite). This class was chosen as the teacher also teaches the nursery and will be important to get an overview of what will be shared across all levels. The school and council agreed that it makes sense to roll this out initially just using one class to avoid all classes running into the same teething issues. This is currently underway with the hope that we will be able to roll Showbie out to the rest of the school by the end of the year. Eventually the hope is that all school reports will be shared via Showbie. The teachers are engaged in the use of Showbie and have already had a group training session. The school and council agreed that sharing jotters twice a year is not sufficient and the use of Showbie will ensure more continues communication.
- Inclusive practices are also part of the SIP and one aspect is having the children participate and completing the Glasgow Wellbeing questionnaire. Any child who enters a grading of less than 5 will be spoken to by the class teacher to discuss reasons for the low scoring, with responses being annotated on the questionnaire. This will be completed twice per year.
- Susan reassured parents that although the focus this year is on writing, talking, listening and healthcare other core subjects would not be forgotten about. Next year the focus will shift to be more numeracy focused.
- ACTION: Susan to follow up to check the vision for the next 2 years and beyond
- Another focus of the SIP is the transition for P7-S1 pupils, with earlier transition meetings. There is a sub-group from the High School, Priorsford and Kingsland meeting to discuss what transition materials/information is needed.
- ANA Academy: The school will continue to ensure there is standardization in how all ANAs are trained. To date this has been very successful, and the school will continue to build on this training.
- All healthcare professionals will be getting together to discuss common themes and to try and understand the constraints within each of the services.
- Nursery: School is working to make sure that all interactions with the children are giving the best experiences. Stay and play in the nursery will continue, but the school is also looking at home visits to support with transition to nursery. Feedback from the council was that these home transition visits have been very good for transition. The school will get feedback from new parents and children on how the home visits have helped. The school will also discuss whether the home visits should be an optional visit.

School Trips

- The school are reviewing the school trips based on the inflated cost of bus hire and assessing if the trips are adding value to learning. The bus hire for the P5/6 & 6 trip was quoted as just under £1000 and therefore the trip was cancelled based on this.
- Susan is following up with the council to determine if local bus companies can be part of the tender. The school is trying to keep the parent costs as low as possible for trips and it was discussed that the PTA funds need to benefit all children.
- A parent offered to contact Julie Pirone regarding the bus situation and Susan asked the Parent Council to await a reply from the school questioning which companies are being given the opportunity to tender the schools requests.

- The current funds for the PTA are very healthy (approx. £28K), but the PTA will struggle to keep funds this high moving forward due to the lower school intake. The PTA also ring fence costs to keep a bucket of money for
- children who can't afford to pay for trips. Approx £10K is used every year to replace smart boards. The PTA fund is also high as there was minimal spend last year due to the change in Head Teacher. There is a meeting with the PTA and Susan to discuss spend of the PTA fund moving forward.
- All children will go on trips which are individual to their class topics.

SBC PARENT COUNCIL CHAIR MEETING FEEDBACK

- Stephen and Nicola attended the meeting on 04th Sep and shared the main outcomes of the meeting with the council members. The focus of the meeting was to share the achievements of Phase 1 of the SBC way and an expectation that by Aug 27 all inspection grades in all settings and schools will be very good or excellent. The target discussed during this call was that for attainment and achievement all schools will be better than the virtual comparator metric in every category.
- It was also discussed that there is a financial challenge, with uncontrollable factors and SBC are working as a team to determine how they mitigate against them.
- Justin highlighted for attainment that S4/S5/S6 data will be available in the next few weeks for all qualifications, but based on initial figures the results have held very well with results being back to where they were pre-covid. The data for Primary-S3 is showing a 2 year pick up since covid.

MEET THE TEACHER FEEDBACK

- Susan asked the council members for feedback on the recent meet the teacher event. Feedback was very positive, but a request was made to think about changing the date of these meetings to allow other parents to attend. It was very helpful for parents of children in composite classes to hear about how the classes are managed and what the class overlap would look like. Teachers also had good materials and tools for explaining to parents. The children also seemed to enjoy showing parents around their class and their work. The P1 parents found this event very helpful.

AOB

- A question was asked about the status of Dalguise. Susan confirmed that based on the questionnaire that went out to parents the consensus was to keep Dalguise as a 5 day trip. Dalguise has been booked and the school are pending bus quotes to determine what the final cost of the trip will be.
- Susan explained that currently the school is almost at full capacity with only 3 spaces available across the school.
- Susan confirmed that P2 has only 30 pupils are per the guidelines
- A question was asked about whether Priorsford will become the hub for children with additional needs. Susan confirmed that all pupils are welcome to attend Priorsford and that the school has no more additional needs children than we have ever had.
- Susan highlighted that she was aware that there were some concerns from the P2 parents and has offered to schedule a separate meeting with the P2 parents to address any concerns. She also highlighted that if any parent from the school has issues then they must come in to speak to her about them directly.
- Together time was discussed as an option to ensure that specifically for composite classes that they are mixing with the other class as much as possible.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Wednesday 20th November, 18:30.