



 Bathgate Early Years Centre

**Balbardie PS Parent Council**

**Zoom Meeting 27 August 2020**

**Present:** Dorthe Davidson (Chair), Margaret Johns (HT), Kirsten Patience (DHT), Katy Leamy (DHT), Fiona Cameron, Marion Courtney, Alison Currie, Laura Marshall, Jennifer Strang (Vice-Chair), Janice Earl-Summers, Claire Swan, Leigh Maybury, Ros Milligan, Claire Robertson, Pauline Stafford, Sharon Gibson, Jana Anderson, Gillian Greenwell, Bella Morgan, Lauren Reid, Aimee Clark, Kirsteen Sullivan, Kay Taylor (Treasurer), Lynne Duncan, Lisa Robertson, Marion McCallum (minutes)

**Apologies:** Harry Cartmell (Councillor), Dawn Roden, Claire Dignal, Vikki Gallagher

**Previous Minutes:**

* Chair thanked the school staff for the P7 send-off. The online Oscars and in-school celebration was great.
* P7 camp money has been refunded to parents.

**Parent Council Constitution:**

* Chair read out the constitution which can be found on the school website. Anyone wishing to be a member of the PC should be aware of the constitution. It was agreed no amendments are required at this time.

**Appointment of Roles:**

* Outgoing Chair Dorthe Davidson – new Chair Claire Swan (following a vote with those present)
* Outgoing Vice Chair Jennifer Strang – new Vice Chair Jennifer Strang
* Outgoing Treasurer Kay Taylor – new Treasurer Kay Taylor
* Bathgate West Nursery rep – Fiona Cameron
* Bathgate Early Years Centre – Katy Leamy
* P1 Marion Courtney
* P2 Claire Dignal
* P3 Aimme Clark
* P4 Alison Currie
* P5 Leigh Maybury
* P6 Laura Marshall & Lisa Robertson
* P7 Kay Taylor
* Parent Engagement lead Marion Courtney with Pauline Stafford and Leigh Maybury
* Fundraising lead Claire Swan with Lauren Reid, Kirsteen Sullivan and Marion McCallum
* Float Committee lead Janice Earl-Summers
* Website Support Grant Moffat
* Parents wishing to be on the PC distribution list should contact the new Chair Claire Swan at cwhitfield@hotmail.co.uk

**Headteachers Report (Margaret Johns):**

* Children have settled back into school well.
* A positive COVID19 result for a P3 child on Monday led to a further 13 children isolating. NHS Lothian, Health Protection Scotland and the school assessed the situation to identify the group of 13 based on their proximity to the affected child over a period of time. Other children in the class did not meet the close proximity criteria i.e. by being in the same classroom or playing together outside. 12 of these children have tested negative and one is awaiting a home testing kit. Mrs Gahfoor tested negative and has returned to work. Almost a week has passed so officials feel confident that it was a community transmission and not a school one. School has since been deep-cleaned and the measures in place are working to keep children safe.
* As BPS had the first positive case in school for NHS Lothian, challenges in communication were evident. Communications to parents were not controlled by the school. MJ expressed her regret that many parents read about the situation on social media. MJ has provided feedback to the managing authorities so lessons can be learned for the future.
* MJ wished to remind parents that this is a sensitive situation as a family in the school are going through a stressful experience. Once again a plea was made for parents to speak directly with the school when issues arise rather than seeking often the wrong information through social media.
* MJ will send the Chair the updated risk assessment for sharing with PC.
* MJ will offer an additional HT surgery tomorrow (Friday 27.8.20) for parents wishing to raise issues. A groupcall will be sent out.
* The news bulletin will start again from next week to give parents information re gym days etc.
* MJ expressed her thanks to Dorthe as Chair for her continued commitment to the school over the years.

**Questions for HT:**

- How is the school working to help children catch-up with lost schooling? Teachers are currently carrying out a range of testing in classes to assess where children are in their learning and what they need going forward.

- What contingency plans are in place for local lockdowns in the future? The school feels confident that they can manage situations which may arise. Many contingency plans are in place.

- Would you like the school risk assessment to be reviewed by a Unison rep for additional input? MJ thanked this kind offer and agreed to check this out.

- When will the calendar dates come out? Dates still have to be finalised by WLC and should be ready in September. MJ to send draft calendar to the Chair for sharing with the PC.

**Future Meeting Minute Takers:**

5.11.20 (changed to 29.10.20) Claire Dignal

14.1.21 Ros Milligan

18.3.21 Janice Earl-Summers

13.5.21 Marion Courtney

17.6.21 Social Event

**Treasurer Report:**

* An expenditure report for PC has been posted on the school website
* Current balance for float £2866.86 and PC £2796.23
* £5000 gift from the PC to the school is no longer needed – the PC will consider what this money could be used for.

**AOB:**

* Parents consultations will happen but not in the school. Details will be confirmed soon.
* Confirmation was sought re children taking own screens into school from P5. Teachers should confirm which days children need the screens so it doesn’t have to be a daily routine of carrying a screen at a young age.
* MJ confirmed lunches have been a bit of trial and error. The new P1’s are being supported to eat in school which can take longer than the time allocated to them. This can impact on the older children. Each class is getting at least 20mins to eat their lunch and this will increase as routine settles.
* A groupcall has been requested for reminding parents to wear facemasks in the playgrounds. MJ confirmed that BPS is one of a few schools in west Lothian allowing parents into the playground so would like to keep that going. However, parents need to wear a facemask and preferably move away from the gates. MJ to review this situation.