

HYNDLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL MEETING (ONLINE)

MINUTES FOR 17 JUNE 2020

Present: Helen Brown (Head Teacher), Alan Bonnyman (Chair & P7 rep), Chris Bryce (Treasurer), Dorian Grieve (Secretary & P3 rep), Katie Brady Patterson (joint P6 rep), Clare Clacherty (joint P6 rep), Jaime Guenther (P1 rep).

1. August plans update (from HB)

There is still uncertainty around August plans but as it stands it will be 2 days face to face teaching per cohort and 3 days at home. The school day has been extended to 5 1/2 hours per day to allow 11 teacher-facing hours a week. The differing room sizes in the school present problems and while most classes can be split into 2 cohorts, some will need to be split into 3. In forming the cohorts, siblings groups were given priority, followed by friendship groups and then families who have expressed a need, because of shared child care with another family, for example. Other considerations in forming these groups included additional support needs and achieving good balances of gender and ethnicity.

There have been big changes in staffing, including 3 new probationers, but the school is now fully staffed. At the end of this week or the beginning of next, parents/carers will receive an email detailing each pupil's first term teacher, their days, entry point, entry time and finish time which will vary because of the need for staggered entry times and staggered play times. Also by beginning of next week all the report cards will be posted out. There are 60 new P1s this year so there will no longer be need for a composite class.

Road safety officers have been in and said there will be a parking ban on Fortrose St at pick up and drop off times. It is envisaged that parents will not be allowed into the playground and may need the road and the pavement to allow social distancing.

Pupils desks are 2m apart, last year's tray will follow them as will last year's jotter so their new teacher will be able to gain a better idea of their progress. There are challenges presented by the relatively low number of toilets in the school where a card system may be put in place to allow social distancing. There should be a fact sheet for parents on these issues available before summer.

As yet it is not clear whether a National, Glasgow, or school-specific curriculum will be followed for blended learning.

JG asked about lunch provision. At least initially, this will be packed lunches at their own desk.

CB wondered if it would be possible to arrange some kind of contact during the part of the week when pupils are not in school, perhaps through a coalition of Hyndland Secondary feeder schools, and asked if that is something education authorities are considering. It was not, but HB thought something may be possible and said she would raise it with an area manager. KBP pointed out that all prep time was now condensed into Wednesdays as the teachers are teaching for the whole day the rest of the week. HB noted that with 22 hours of pupil-facing time a week teachers were already at the union limit, which includes online pupil-facing time.

2. Plans for open meeting with parents/carers

AB noted there was lot of interest in some kind of online meeting for the wider parent body and wondered how this might best be achieved. HB suggested that submitted questions may be the way forward and the responses could perhaps be provided in the form of a recorded webinar or word doc which could be accessed not just at the meeting time. HB said she would be willing to take

part in this over the summer holiday period. KBP noted it might be better to leave this till August given the rapidly changing landscape and DG noted that in spite of that an earlier meeting would still be useful given the appetite for information. HB noted that once the survey responses were back they would be able to respond to a lot of the more common questions and concerns. CB emphasised the importance of information sharing in keeping parents/carers enfranchised.

(August plans discussion)

KBP asked whether the work for the days at home would be online or concrete, HB said it would probably be a mix and that as yet there was no guidance on this from Glasgow, noting that it isn't possible to rely on everyone having access to remote learning.

AB highlighted parent concerns over the lack of consistency across home learning resources. HB noted that access had been provided across stages to allow a pick and mix approach and emphasised the range of preferences among parents/carers.

Various online learning platforms and approaches were discussed with regard to the return to school in August.

JG asked about PPE procedures. Current guidance is that masks will not be used and that children will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently throughout the day. CC asked about outdoor learning. There is a plan for each class to have a timetabled outdoor-learning period.

3. Parent council support for the school

AB asked what the parent council can do to support the school. HB said that if the amphitheatre area could be fixed up that would be helpful. Various possibilities for rain cover were discussed: gazebos, parasols, and tarps. AB suggested that, if there were a big move to online learning, the PC could raise money to address digital inequality.

4. Fundraising?

JG asked about school fundraising activities such as bake sales and HB confirmed that any such activity will have to take a different form this year.

AB wondered if it was appropriate for the PC to engage in fundraising activity at this time. It was suggested that perhaps the community aspects bringing people together (online quizzes, etc.) could be retained but perhaps leaving the financial aspect to one side for now. DG thought it might be ok to fundraise for specific projects especially those related to the current situation. CB suggested a big push on promoting the use of charity portals for online shopping as a cost-free way of raising funds for the school and parent council. HB said that the some portion of the hardship fund may well still be important going into winter but that the bulk of the sum provided by the PC was still intact.

5. AOB

KBP asked if there was going to be room for manoeuvre on the pupils' days if they do not fit well with parent's work, etc. HB said there would probably be a bit of wiggle room on this. CC asked about Hub provision over summer. The hub will close for summer, but the council will provide hubs over the summer for critical workers.