

Baljaffray Parent Teacher Council

Meeting 19th March 2024

Attendees:

Lesley Rodden (Head Teacher)
Elaine Patterson (Deputy Head)
Lynne Parker (Deputy Head)
David McIntosh (Chair)
Kirsten Donaldson (Vice-Chair) (Apology)
Linden Fradet
Gavin Ross
Graeme Glen
Emily Dewar
Hazel Dawson
Sharon Middleton (apology)

1. Apologies and notification

Note of apologies and agreement of previous minutes

2. School update

Events and activities

- Away trips – been very successful (despite the weather)
- Opening morning went well – some feedback it could have been longer, also feedback that teacher's could have taught more, but difficult to make it longer and its not supposed to replicate full teaching. The school will consider the feedback and come back to people.
- *Feedback for Opening Morning – ok for 2 kids in the school but difficult for 3 kids. Also quite late notice (2 weeks) for people taking time off*
- P7 cultural afternoon – really well received
- Beehives have done Red Nose, International Women's Day and other excellent events. Weekly stationery shop being run by Turtles – this is proving useful.
- P6 and P7 had visit from PC Todd to speak about playground activity, conflict, football behaviour,
- *Parent question on internet / social media safety (P3s now coming in with phones). "Whole school" session may be required. School will attempt to get something one evening and during day for a whole school session. How can school ensure all parents come to something like this – can they do it as an online session and record it?*
- *What stance do the kids take on phones at school? School allows kids to take phones to school but they must stay in the bottom of the bag until school is finished. Experience from secondary school is that kids arrive at secondary already reliant on phone use.*
- *Commitment to arrange something for next term and then annual event early – and something communication wise that goes with report card or with letter out. Also could be something about parents coming to help their understanding to help kids (rather than parent only session)*

- Upcoming events – Baljaffray’s Got Talent auditions – we have a deadline we always have late auditions – reorganisation required – needs to be made a bit clearer that this takes a lot of time out of teaching
- In the midst of 50th birthday concert next week – limited notice on that also from school – two nights of kids time. *Point taken.* Tickets are being charged to raise a bit of funds for the school itself. School coffers are quite low.
- PTA arranging other activities. 50th birthday mugs for sale (also during the day for kids). Selling recipe books for Charities Beehive. £2 which will go to British Red Cross
- PTA got a gift from the Edrington - £10,794 (Robertson Trust match funding x3 for Christmas Fayre). Price for new sound system and lighting system. 8 functioning microphones. Should consider lapelle mics too
- Easter Service on Thursday 28th. Donations for the Tear Fund for fishing nets for Bangladesh
- Autism Acceptance week (might be next week, might be week after)
- Interim report cards coming out
- Tree planting, whole school photo, school songs – all planned for final term
- Mural being chased up
- *General point on notice to parents and early warning on dates*

Staffing:

- A lot of sickness – school overspent on budget for sickness but nothing school can do
- Next term – will a few changes (can’t be confirmed as going through HRA)

Documents

- Next term going to change them from draft to full documents
- Thought to maybe alert parents to these policies on an annual basis – example around conflict and “punishment” and just making parents aware of the policies in place.
- Start of term is a good opportunity to bring parents up to speed with those policies – perhaps picking a few important ones
- All these documents are on the school website but getting information on there has to go through EDC

PTA

- Huge contribution (Gary Granger) has a contact at Edrington – Robertston Trust who match fund for charities. Gave the school x3 for Christmas Fayre. School is now looking at list of opportunities. PTA may also reply next year. P7s wrote a lovely letter in thanks
- Raised £452 at Valentines Disco
- Baljaffray’s Got Talent coming up 26th April
- Spring Fayre – in May – coming up too – helper’s for the Spring Fayre required
- 1st June Adult’s evening – 70s theme for 50th Birthday – Quiz / DJ / décor etc. Before the Euros. Hall being reconfigured for things.
- To consider a hearing loop for the concert too (may be cost dependent – but Elaine to email)

Shelter

- Gavin Haire has continued to stay in touch but no firm date on shelter build yet provided. Contractor and product has all been chosen (see below). Text of conversation with Gavin in the appendix – including picture of shelter.

Specific topic – Sexual Health Education

- Gavin works for NLC as a complaints officer (as part of the role). He dealt with a complaint from a parent about content for a P5 that the parent deemed was not age appropriate for a child of that age. From that experience, Gavin knows that schools have some say in content being utilised. RHSP says it has to “fit local context”.
- Gavin showed a few examples of what children are being taught at P4 and P5 curriculum. Gavin wanted to discuss if the school has a view on whether these are age appropriate and is taking the right / appropriate approach to sharing this content with children.
- Age appropriateness is the point, particularly as the vast majority of children may not be experiencing this physically.
- Point from Gavin is that in his view it might be arriving too early and is the school using its license to include / exclude as appropriate?
- Mrs R – school has tried to use bits of the curriculum. Lesley has shown that the school chooses some material but does use its discretion (QIO in EDC has pushed this message). Child safety has to be balanced with worrying kids. School approach has been to be less explicit.
- Ms Parker has looked at this specifically. Want children to be aware – e.g. consent lesson is important to use the right words and language. The teaching of this has definitely come earlier – so in local context – if it applies to 1 or 2 children its still important. But important to know the children in classes. School has taken a pragmatic approach to this.
- Gavin – is a consultation required? It’s the lesson content that is the point Gavin is raising. Can we capture the views of parents on this topic. Then it can be agreed? Gavin would like to see the actual slides being used.
- Lesley suggestion – given such a challenging topic – Sexual Health is next term - can this be something that is agreed with PTC only. So PTC takes on board the role of intermediary to parents? So a session where through each of the levels, Lesley shows content and PTC makes the call on behalf of parents. Should include content S1 content as well as P4-P7.
- Face to face session – or written contributions (Emily) which is a great idea.

Agreed position

- Agreement from PTC is as follows: PTC to hold a special session to discuss RHSP content with teachers to agree what should / should not go into lessons. 22nd April at 7pm. Online session is fine – as normal PTC.
- Wording to parents to include “Part of the PTC is to support safeguarding and implement the curriculum, this specific session is to agree lesson content on sexual health education with reference to RHSP”.

AOB:

No AOB this evening

Appendix – conversation on Shelter

Hi David

Thanks for your email with regards to the outdoor classroom.

I have attached an image of the option that has been chosen by the school with regards to the outdoor classroom last week.



This has an inside diameter of 5.7m, with a total diameter of 6.1m including the overhanging roof. The uprights are 2.63m apart and the Gazebo includes bench seats on five sides (total seating length of approximately 12.5m – capacity approximately 25 children), with 1.1m high palisade balustrades. - The roof is 2.2m high at the outside, rising to 3.7m at the apex.

Assets are working with the supplier at present to agree the timescales for installation along with securing the necessary building warrants due to the size of this, which we knew was the case.

It has been advised that ourselves and the school are looking for this to be installed as soon as possible and suggested Easter is preferable but no commitment was made on the day from the contractor for this. However we will continue to press for installation as soon as possible.

Once I have an update on installation date I will be in touch.

Thanks

Gavin

Gavin Haire

School Planning & Improvement Manager



Gavin.Haire@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



07917263278



sustainable thriving achieving

East Dunbartonshire Council

www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk

From: David McIntosh <David.McIntosh@scottishfuturestrust.org.uk>

Sent: 23 January 2024 20:14

To: Gavin Haire <Gavin.Haire@eastdunbarton.gov.uk>; Irodden_baljaffray.e-dunbarton.sch.uk <Irodden@baljaffray.e-dunbarton.sch.uk>

Subject: RE: [Official] : Baljaffray outdoor classroom

Hi Gavin

I hope all is well

We had a Parent Teacher Council meeting tonight and I understand from Lesley that a member of your team (Sam Moore) visited the school this week.

Lesley indicated Sam gave her two options for the shelter – a first that had no sides and no seating and a second option that had a fuller structure with sides and seating. Lesley indicated that the second fuller structure was the preference and much closer to the original specification we were looking for. I'd like to confirm that is the case. Our expectation is for a structure that is at least able to shelter the kids from poorer weather. Sam also indicated that there was no clarity on timeframe for delivery. We are really keen to see the shelter up this school year and it was great you managed to procure a suitable contractor pre-Christmas. The Easter break would appear to be the ideal time for construction.

Can you please give us some surety on both the structure and the timeframe. We can also then liaise with the PTA to release the funds we were repaid back to the Council as our contribution to the shelter.

It would be terrific if we can get the structure up this year and have a really good addition to the school for the long term.

Best, David

David McIntosh