

Minutes from Cedarbank Carer's & Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 15th March 2022

Attendees :

School: Carol McDonald (Head Teacher), Alison Lindsay (Deputy Head Teacher), Louise Queen (Deputy Head Teacher), Iain McLean (PTC), Nichola da Silva (PT), Kaitlynn Mendenhall

Parent / Carers: Kevin Doyle (Chair), Gillian Doyle, Carol Evans (Vice-Chair), Brian Evans (Secretary), Liesl Moore (Treasurer), Nikki Cooper, Joe Cooper, Suzanne Manderson, Pamela Davidson, Chaanah Lynas, Jane Sinclair, Guy Sinclair, Susan Quinn, Jane Marshall, Christine Sachot-Cameron, Gwen Geddes

Introduction:

Kevin Doyle opened the meeting, outlining the agenda below.

Head Teacher update:

Mrs McDonald introduced several members of the leadership team including Mrs Queen, Mrs Lindsay, Mr McLean, Nichola De-Silva, Mrs Mendenhall.

New School Building Presentation

- New logo/school values
 - New logo and school values outlined
- Key dates for transition to new school
 - S1 – S3 start Tuesday 19th April 2022
 - S4 & S5 start Monday 30th May 2022
 - Activities week Monday 30th May 2022
 - S6 last day Friday 27th May 2022 visit to new school.
- Uniform
 - New school tie is black and green
 - Uniform guidance will be included in future letter
 - Reasons for wearing uniform covered, these included feeling a sense of pride and belonging, increases school profile in community, limits competition with expensive fashion items (everyone wears the same uniform), improves identification of pupils
 - School clothing grants are available
- Pictures of new building
 - Mrs McDonald shared some pictures of various rooms and areas within the new building
 - Changing rooms in current building and new building were compared new changing rooms are individual cubicles (12, 6 on either side) – Mrs Doyle requested clarification that there would be at least one member of staff in the communal area of the changing area should a young person get stuck in a

- cubicle – Mrs McDonald confirmed that there would be a staff member in the changing area.
 - Local authority have given funding for a CDT member of staff shared with James Young High School.
- Practical aspects: transport/canteen/toilets
 - Normal transport arrangements will continue
 - Transition work will be carried out to ensure pupil safety, all transport will stop and keys out before pupils exit transport.
 - There are two toilet blocks in the new building, like the changing room these have been designed as communal facilities with individual toilet cubicles – these are considered to be inclusive by not defining male or female – Mrs McDonald outlined that she could be seen as discriminatory if she labelled toilets as one or the other. Picture of new toilet blocks was shown (downstairs has a glass door onto the playground). Young people would be escorted to the toilet so a staff member would be in or around the toilet area. West Calder High School who have a similar set up to this were consulted and their feed-back was positive, Ogalvie Campus were also consulted and they gave similar positive feedback. Current split of pupils is 35% female and 65% male, therefore not a fair split to split into two identified blocks.
 - Mrs Doyle raised the point of cleanliness of the shared toilet facilities, Mrs McDonald said that there would have to be some discussions with the pupils.
 - Mrs Cooper raised similar cleanliness concerns and how the school might work with children who do not always want to close the door, concern raised about whether the toilets will always be monitored. Mrs Cooper raised the point that our concerns raised during the consultation have not been taken on-board – Mr and Dr Evans seconded their concerns of these issues.
 - Mr Cooper asked if parents would be given an opportunity to visit the school to view the toilet arrangements.
- Transition arrangements
 - All pupils have visited the new building during construction to assist with the pupils transition.
 - Daily bulletin with visuals used to help with transition.
- Curriculum opportunities (Slides 48 – 54 of presentation, copy attached to e-mail)
 - Mrs Lindsay outlined projects linked with the curriculum :
 - ASDAN short course in gardening
 - Personal development – developing the young workforce (DYW)
 - Mrs Lindsay suggested parent investigate “Parentzone Scotland” for ideas on how parents can assist their child with the transition and daily school requirements (PE kit etc.) <https://parentzone.org.uk/home>
 - Mrs Queen covered the curriculum design / learning framework and the “Why” question (copy in the presentation pack – slides 48 & 49)
 - S1 & S2 core curriculum will remain the same with the exception of Art, HE, Music and CDT which will be rotated.
 - S3 core curriculum along with choices.
 - S4 aim for 5 NQ’s to incl Maths and English, ASDAN short courses, RVB (religion, values and beliefs), Lifeskills, PE

- Carol Evans asked if there were “Foundation Apprenticeships” included – Mrs Queen outlined how these were run through West Lothian Collage with Cedarbank support.
- Mrs Doyle raised a similar point for supporting young people who maybe don't want to go to West Lothian College.

Please refer to the presentation slides 48 – 54 for full information.

Item 2: Health and Wellbeing Family Champion

- Currently Cedarbank do not have a “Health and Wellbeing Family Champion” and Mrs McDonald asked if one of the parents / careers would like to volunteer.

Item 3: School Fund

- Mrs McDonald pointed out that there has been very little movement in the school fund over the past 2 years, currently there is a balance of £19358.93 – some has been spent on trips to the cinema, pantomime etc.

Actions:

- Mrs McDonald to issue copy of presentation to Parent Council
- Parents to be offered visit to school when possible

Mrs Marshal noted that it has helped her son coming to terms with the move to the new school building by referring to it as the “new Cedarbank” rather than the new school – it was felt that this approach may help other parents and the school will start referring to the “new Cedarbank”

Kevin Doyle thanked Mrs McDonald and the teachers for the presentation and attending the meeting .