

Minutes from Cedarbank Carer's & Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 27th September 2022 – Remote "Teams" Meeting

Attendees:

School: Carol McDonald (Head Teacher), Alison Lindsay (Deputy Head Teacher), Adam Cox, Kaitlynn Mendenhall

Parent / Carers: Kevin Doyle (Chair), Carol Evans (Vice-Chair), Brian Evans (Secretary), Liesl Moore (Treasurer), Jane Marshall (family wellbeing champion), Nikki Cooper, Joe Cooper, Suzanne Manderson, Patrick Hardman

Introduction:

Kevin Doyle opened the meeting stating that this was the Parent Council AGM and we needed to elect new post holders.

Election of New Office Bearers

- **Parent Council Chair**

1. Nomination – Carol Evans – Proposed by Brian Evans – Seconded by Patrick – Carol was duly elected.

- **Secretary**

1. Nomination – No nominations were received – This could leave the Parent Council and it's Charity status in jeopardy.

Head Teacher update:

Mrs. McDonald started by thanking the exiting post holders for their help and efforts on the parent council.

Staff turnover – Mrs. McDonald gave an update on teaching and pupil support worker recruitment.

General update on the benefits of the new school building, better teaching environment, small snagging list being actioned. MUGA pitch still not been installed and WLC are supposed to be constructing this, Mrs. McDonald will keep the Parent Council upto date on this.

Mrs. McDonald outlined that the overall transition has gone well and it is an ongoing task to fully integrate all the year groups as they were not used to all being together in the one building.

Survey conducted showed that only 1/3 of parents replied and that 70% of that 1/3 were aware of the Parent Council and happy to be involved.

Parents showing a willingness to come along to events, Cafes, award days, sports days etc. also interested in independent living skills.

Survey of pupils showed they want the freedom of learning – moving around, not only in a classroom all day, interacting with each other.

Mr. Cox leading a task on "Pupil Voice" to ensure pupils are listened to.

The school was recently awarded the "Success is Different Children in Scotland Award". The award, developed by Scotland's national Inclusion Ambassadors group, asked schools to share how they were supporting the achievements of their pupils with additional support needs out with academic awards.

The winners were chosen by the Inclusion Ambassadors and the criteria was a commitment to celebrating individual pupil journeys, evidence of positive relationships between pupils, staff and peers and a focus on children's rights.

Hoping to run camp this year – 3 days at site in Biggar (dates in June to be issued)

Mental Health & Wellbeing Parent Group Update:

Jane Marshall (family wellbeing champion) – Jane and Mrs. Lindsay have worked together on “The Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy”, they worked on link which were added to the school website.

Meeting held on the benefits of being able to be outside – 3 parents attended, next meeting will be on CAMHS and Mental Health.

Parents notified of these meetings via Group Call – 22 responses received for next meeting, alternative locations outside of the school being investigated for meetings.

Discussion held around crossover between this group and the Parent Council.

List of meeting dates:

Thursday	Topic	Facilitator (s)
15 September	The benefits of meeting together and of being outside	Jane Marshall and Alison Lindsay
20 October	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)	Claire Wakefield (CAMHS)
10 November	CAMHS: Using Visuals and Social Stories to support young people	Heather Lyon (CAMHS)
8 December	Anxiety management (45 minute presentation)	Will Ogg (Educational Psychologist)

Pupil Equity Fund Plan:

Mrs. Mendenhall took the Parent Council through the Pupil Equity Fund Plan presentation – version to be made available to all families in the near future.

Children's Rights:

Mr. Cox informed the Parent Council the Cedarbank achieved the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Bronze award, normally the program takes on average 4 years from starting to the Gold award and the good work with the Pupil Council continues.

Each week there is an “article of the week” from the UNICEF convention focused on, and other topics have included whole week school topics looking at pupil rights, classroom charters etc.

Charity / Fundraising:

Mr. Doyle outlined that we are still a dormant charity, the main driver of the charity had been to apply for funding for various activities. It was noted that we hadn't held a charity board meeting, Liesl will submit the dormant accounts.

Is now the time to start fundraising? – it was noted that in previous years the fundraising had benefited the “leavers” where none of the “leavers” families were particularly active in the fundraising.

Mrs. McDonald pointed out that there are always lots of opportunities where fundraising would help, last year's trips cost a vast sum and the school were able to fund this due to not having spent on trips during Covid.

Carol Evans suggested keeping the charity ongoing for another year would be a good idea but if it were still dormant this time next year then we should seriously consider closing it down.

AOB:

Various methods of trying to increase the attendance by parents / carers to the Parent Council meetings were discussed.