

Minutes from Cedarbank Carer's & Parent Council Meeting

Thursday 16th March 2023 6pm – 7:30pm

Attendees:

School: Louise Queen, Mr Stewart,

Parent / Carers*: Carol Evans (Chair), Marcia Edwards (Secretary), Liesl Moore (Treasurer), Gill Doyle, Jane Marshall (family wellbeing champion), Geraldine Brewster, Mr and Mrs Cooper, Brian Evans, Mrs Ness, M Watson, S Manderson and H Wilson.

*Note: There were a total of 12 sets of parents / carers which attended the meeting, meaning 10% of young people were represented at the meeting. This is great but we would like even more to attend.

Apologies: Carol McDonald

Student Council - update

Holly and Leo gave an excellent update, the achievements since the last meeting in January include:

- The complaints made by students about lunches not been warm and portion sizes being too small were heard and resolved. Lunches are now provided by the James Young High School and quality and quantities have improved 😊
- Breakfast is now available at the school with a healthier selection of choices. Pupils have the option to independently make themselves cereals.
- There are now new sides to the playground pagoda.
- New playground equipment has been purchased and proving popular.
- The Leavers Reception will take place on 2nd June.

Review of minutes from last meeting & actions, outcome from the parent breakout session

The previous minutes were agreed, and Liesl submitted the accounts for "Friends of Cedarbank" (FoC) and all is in order.

Money from recent successful grant applications is in the school bank account and can run from there. Any new money coming in will go into the new parent council FoC bank account.

Classes / Services

The Chair raised the issue of communal toilets with the council Depute Chief Executive. Toilets are still a hot topic. Parents concerns raised repeatedly during the school planning consultation sessions were not correctly shown in the minutes and were not taken into account when building the school.

The communal nature of the toilets has caused a few young people distress since moving into the new building. School has been asked, along with the parent council and WL council to see if there are any solutions. One suggestion was designating

male and female cubicles within the communal toilet setting. This may alleviate some of the issues as only girls will be entering the cubical after girls etc. Miss Queen explained that any changes to the toilet arrangements would have to remain within Council policy.

School Update – Louise Queen

After school clubs had been requested by the parents, but on investigation this would not be possible as pupils are from all over the council area, West Lothian council would not fund the transport needed to get the young people home.

If clubs are offered there needs to be equal access for all. The school has listened to parents and there are now some clubs running at lunch time currently with senior phase pupils and equipment purchased for use at lunchtime.

Health and Wellbeing Update - Jane Marshall

Previous topics included:

- Management of Anxiety
- Zones of regulation by Mrs Bathgate, helping parents to identify where their child is

On 30th March at 2pm there will be a session on yoga by CAMHS

Actions

- Parents have asked for more notice of school events involving parents such as the course choice market etc. Working parents need at least a months' notice to attend. A request has been made for these to be later in the day after work where possible.
- The school are considering making Parent's evening slots available over a longer period e.g. 4pm to 7pm
- Future wellbeing sessions will be in the evening except the next one which is already arranged. Parents had been surveyed about the most suitable time for the sessions this year and the feedback from those interested was the afternoon. However, after feedback from the Parent Council the wellbeing sessions will be offered in the evening next term. A request was also made to see if some of these sessions could be recorded, for any parent unable to attend the session.
- For parent council some parents could not get in, so a request was made for an adult to be near the door to let parents in who turn up a bit later.
- Some parents also mentioned home school diaries are useful for communications required for senior phase, so parents are aware of dress down days, changes to timetable, catering etc. Miss Queen explained that in the Senior phase the young people do not move around as a Tutor class. Different staff members work with the young people throughout the course of the day. Miss Queen said that she would remind the key staff to use the diary for communication.

School Camp Update – Mr. Stewart

- 66 pupils out of 98 (S6 pupils will have already left school), will be attending the school camp on 13th – 15th June this year.
- 7 pupils require full funding.
- 13 members of staff will be available the whole time and 7 members of staff will be available on a part-time basis.
- Mr Stewart has been down to the camp, and some photos will be made available to pupils/parents
- During the camp photos will be posted on Twitter each day
- Activities will be catered to young peoples abilities, so everyone will be able to take part.
- Sleeping arrangements will be selected by staff.
- Mr.Stewart is available to answer any questions.

Discussion to arrange and take forward organising a family parent council event in June.

- The next parent council will be a fun day / sports day picnic on Friday 23rd June, 11am -2.30pm .
- It will be a combination of a school fair and sports day picnic. In the school with stalls, activities, and refreshments till around 12.30pm to 1pm.
- This will be followed by a parents / young people sports events with parent and young people races and a bring your own picnic 12.45pm - 2.30pm.
- Miss Queen and a few parents agreed to help, but more helpers for the event are required.
- More details to follow.

AOB – Muga, signpost

- Gill Doyle raised the issue of no MUGA for Cedarbank and Signpost closing. She has agreement from the parent council to write letters to the council to lobby on our behalf.
- Guardianship was a topic that came up and had a lot of interest and parents have requested a session on this at the September parent council or a separate session just on this arranged by the school. Carers of West Lothian have a lot of advice to offer too. Request to put carers of WL contact details on the minutes:

Email office@carers-westlothian.com | Tel 01506 448000

- Parents provided details of social clubs for ASN children / young people; this is included on a separate document.