

## Minute of Roslin Primary School Parent Council Meeting May 11, 2023

**Present:** Karen Lipscombe (minute), Helen Love, Suzie Fegen, Amy Collop, Emma Ahlqvist, Eilidh Watson, Louise Clark (nursery), Kat James, Sara Rodriguez, Colin Burt, Councillor Pauline Winchester (item 1 only), Madhu Satsangi (chair).

**Apologies:** Claire Houston, Emma Hutt, Evelyn Philpott, Craig Barrowman, David Robertson.

1. **Cllr Winchester** was welcomed to the meeting. She gave an update from the latest Midlothian Council meeting. She advised that a new 20mph speed limit was being considered for Roslin. (This wouldn't apply to areas where houses are set further back from the main road.) The difficulties of the council budget cuts had been discussed, including the introduction of a funding floor and that growing councils have to pay money to shrinking councils, which puts Midlothian Council at a further disadvantage for the next few years. She advised that the proposed cuts that were not taken forward this time round will likely be back on the table next year. She confirmed that the public consultation will be when the general public first see the plans for the primary school extension. The number of bought and rented portable classrooms were discussed alongside concerns around reducing the playground footprint and playground assistants' ability to see children and ensure their safety (see 3).
2. **Minute of last meeting** (March 9): approved.
3. **Matters arising:**
  - a. School development: HL thanked the PC for writing to the council regarding safety concerns as to where the portable classrooms were going to be placed. As a result, the council will now reposition these along the nursery fence. She also confirmed that the tunnel and hill will be removed from the school playground (the nursery one will be preserved) and bike racks will be moved as part of the re-positioning work. HL also reported that the P1 classes will have their own toilets in 2023-24. Having toilets adjacent to P1 has been advantageous.
  - b. School budget and PC support: School Improvement Plan: HL advised that the Participatory Budgeting Group (PBG – including SF and EW) has met and had suggested good ideas for going forward. There is a commitment to more regular PBG meetings. In relation to where the school thinks the funds raised by the PC could be best directed, she fed back that novels for the lower school had been updated, but that they wanted to update the reading sets for the upper school. Mr Deed is compiling a list, which could total around £2,000 p/a. HL said the school would appreciate any contribution to this cost. Other items the PC fund raising has paid for in the past include hoodies and the yearbook for P7s (£300 for this year's yearbook). MS will check with CB how much of the PC Budget can be spent and how much should be retained. Members agreed that, in any advertisement of PC fund raising, the items we are fund raising for should be made clear so that people know what it is they are supporting. AC offered to produce a poster to promote how

much has been raised and what the current fund-raising drive would be used to support.

- c. **School improvement plan:** The steps for next year were discussed. KJ had set out two areas of improvement – raising attainment and all children and young people felt valued and included – on flip charts and asked PC members to add post-it notes with their thoughts against each area. There will be an opportunity for the wider school community to feed into this process as well. The nursery and school improvement priorities are appended. In response to a new ask from Midlothian Council as to where the school wants to be in four years' time, Roslin PS' response was for there to be a focus on interdisciplinary and peer learning (for example, the visit and whole school focus on Dynamic Earth). Roslin PS has already attained 'very good' in this area but is aiming for 'excellent' (recognised as sector leading).

4. **Anti-bullying policy:** MS outlined feedback that he had received around the time taken to resolve a single incident of bullying and asked the school to set out how the anti-bullying policy is being implemented. HL replied that they follow Midlothian Council's anti-bullying policy around creating a positive behaviour policy (potentially to be renamed to a positive relationship policy). Teachers talk to parents and they have an anti-bullying log with actions. The school focuses on fostering positive responses to encourage children to disclose any instances of bullying and they appreciate parents coming forward with any information. The Glasgow Wellbeing Survey that had been run asked pupils if they felt safe in school, and the overwhelming response was positive (only six responses said they didn't feel safe in school). While over 90% of pupils had felt they had agency, this was the lowest score and agency will be a focus for longer-term work.

CB talked about acceptable behaviour on phones, and the way in which the school encourages peer reporting and supports preventative work. The differences between bullying and fallouts between peers was also discussed. SF mentioned the seven points of action to create a positive culture that she had read recently and offered to share it with the school. Other discussion included that normalising difference encourages inclusion (for example, pupils with ADHD), 'fix it' folders which have been introduced to allow dialogue when there's been a disagreement and that zones of regulation work will help too.

In response to the points made by teachers, some parents fed back that they had heard of different things happening in classes and that the school's understanding of the process is not necessarily shared by parents. Although the survey results showed the children were happy, some children report issues of what happened in class to their parents, which the school is not always aware of. Parents were encouraged to contact the school if they had any concerns. To improve communication on the school's response to incidents of bullying, there was an ask that these are communicated to parents more effectively, and for follow up communication with parents as well as a check in with the children at future points. To help improve people's understanding of what is meant by bullying and to address concerns being raised by parents, HL agreed to add an explanation around positive behaviours and the anti-bullying policy to the next newsletter.

5. **Composite classes and classes in 2023-24:** In relation to whether the current P1/2 composite would continue up the school, HL advised that class composition will change over the school career. In response to feedback that other councils have diverged from the policy to create composite classes by age, she advised that this will be the process used at Roslin PS as it is the most straightforward, noting exceptions around twins, additional support needs and ensuring a gender balance. HL outlined the benefits of composite classes, including the maximum of 25 pupils in composite classes. She has submitted three models to the council and advised PC members that the final decision on which model will be applied is made at local authority level. This is because there is no capacity in certain year groups in some of the models submitted and the council has to consider both the models and capacity of neighbouring schools as part of their decision-making process.
6. **AoCB:**
- a. **Transition to P1:** Information was issued a few weeks ago around a series of events have been planned for the transition to P1. The first visit for new P1 pupils outwith Roslin nursery took place on 12 May. There is also an event on 15 June at 9am for parents and the request was made for a volunteer to represent the PC there. MS will represent the PC at the end of year show.
  - b. **Parking on Penicuik Road:** Concerns were raised about the handful of cars that either pull in sharply or park precariously on Penicuik Road, just beside the path up to the school at the top of the road to Roslin Glen, around school start and finishing times. PC members agreed that it was not helpful to just move the problem elsewhere but did suggest that creating a parking bay there would allow for safer parking.
  - c. **Preparation for AGM (June 15):** CH wishes to step down as Secretary after having held the position for four years. MS advised that office bearers should stay in post for two years unless there are exceptional circumstances (such as Covid-19). Madhu had not had an opportunity to speak to EH about her position as Vice Chair, but CB had advised he is willing to continue as Treasurer. MS has been Chair for four years and next year will be his final year with a child at primary school. He would be happy to step aside this year and to aid the transition for the new Chair by providing support over 2023-24. It would be preferable to have representation for any new officer bearers from further down the school if possible.
  - d. **Good news in school:** In addition to HL's daily "three good things" tweets, CB asked if good news in school – for example, visitors, sports days, outstanding achievements – should be a standing item on the PC agenda. PC members agreed that this would be a positive motivator and made the offer to the Pupil Council to be more involved in PC meetings if they wished.

## **Roslin Primary School Nursery and School Improvement Priorities**

### **1. Raising attainment**

- Develop social studies across the school, linking this to child-led interdisciplinary learning.
- Further develop Formative Assessment and Questioning to support engagement of all learners.
- Begin to embed “Skills Framework” to support skills-based approach to learning (“I can” statements)
- Embed the Literacy and Numeracy Progression Planners to support attainment.
- Continue to focus on digital tools to support learning, working towards the Digital Learning Award (all staff will have achieved bronze award)

### **2. All children and young people feel valued and included**

- Continue to develop play pedagogy across the school with a focus on second level play (Roslin PS approach is as recognised as best practice)
- Extend the use of “Zone of Regulation” to all classes (emotional literacy)
- Continue working on diversity, working towards the LGBT school award. Embedding Racial Literacy in two curricular areas (Mrs James and Mr Deed are working on this)

### **Nursery improvement priorities for 2023-24**

- Quality questioning and dialogue
- Family learning: work with parents to further understanding of how learning in the nursery happens (and consider new ways to involve families in learning opportunities together)
- Community engagement: continue with care home link and PEEP session, continue litter picks and develop new links with STEM community
- Children’s resilience, independence, self-help skills and learning dispositions.