

MINUTES

Gullane Primary School Partnership Extraordinary General Meeting

24th June 2020

14:30 – 15:30

By Google Meet

Attendance: Clare Jones (Chair), Clerk, Seonaid McGillivray (Head Teacher), Maxine Cowie, HL, LB, JG, TH, SG, KD, Angus McEwan, Mrs Gordon, Mrs McIver, Nicola Smith (Fundraising Sub Committee co-chair), AC, CC, G Adamson, Libby Jones, Heulwen Hardie (Fundraising Sub Committee co-chair), VM, PW, KM, CC, Cllr Jim Goodfellow, Lynsey Collins, ML, Belinda Elderfield, ES, HS, Kim Gillies, LN, Michelle Hope, RC, JC, TH, ZM, Lynsey Bryson

1. Welcome from Chair

CJ thanked and congratulated all the staff and parents for coping so well in an unprecedented time.

2. Election of office bearers to current vacancies:

- a. Deputy Chair – Jenny Gries nominated and elected
- b. Clerk – Joanna Heijmer-Mason nominated and elected

3. Proposed amendment to the GPS Partnership Constitution.

Proposed amendment to the GPS Partnership Constitution, notified to the parent forum and outlined below* was accepted.

The purpose of the amendment is to change the required date of the Annual General Meeting of the Partnership from June to September to allow the Partnership to meet in person, to allow time for PTA accounts to be finalised and put forward for verification at the September AGM, to allow new members to be recruited. Last AGM was in Nov 19, so September 2020 meeting will still be within one year.

*** General Meetings**

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held in September each year. The notice calling the meeting shall be sent to the Parent Forum at least two weeks in advance.

4. Appointment of individual to review the annual accounts

Lucy McKay was nominated and appointed.

5. Report from PTA – Heulwen Hardie / Nicola Smith

HH reported that the PTA was pleased with amount raised this year given that summer fayre couldn't go ahead.

It was proposed and agreed that PTA funds could be used to purchase High School ties as a gift for p7 leavers. It was suggested that this could be a tradition to support in the future.

6. Updates to partnership membership

All parents, carers and staff can attend any meeting of the Partnership and any parent or carer of a child at GPS can be a member of the Partnership. A parent / carer who wishes to be a member must nominate themselves and be appointed at a meeting of the Partnership. They will have voting rights from the following meeting.

James Gibson proposed and accepted as a new member and will have voting rights from the next meeting.

7. Report from Mrs McGillivray

Mrs McGillivray confirmed that a considerable amount of work had been done on putting together a 'blended learning' model, with the required physical distancing. However, the announcement this week from the Deputy First Minister that children would return to school as normal in August had left schools and local authorities awaiting guidance on what that would mean for the return to school. The school has two alternative models in place if circumstances change (2m distancing and 1m distancing).

Staff would like to have a soft start for pupils, given the long absence of children from schools, but whether or not this will be permitted will depend on Scottish Government and ELC guidance.

Q&As

What would blended learning look like?

SM confirms that it wouldn't look like in school learning usually does. The social distancing guidelines will impact on the number of children in the classroom, etc. There wouldn't be the same expectation of parents as there is currently in the full-time home learning model. Google classroom would still be the main platform for home learning in a blended learning model but teachers would have more time face to face with pupils to help move their learning on.

Would there be changes to school setting, e.g. Assemblies?

SM noted that the new practices employed in March would continue (increased handwashing, etc) but couldn't confirm what would happen regarding specific situations, e.g. assemblies, until we know what guidance is issued. SM appreciated the general frustration about lack of communication and knowledge about where we will be in August.

Will children and their experiences and points of view of lockdown be taken to account in return to school?

SM noted that the current programme on resilience will be continued and will help pupils moving forward and as part of the ELC commitment to a nurturing approach to return to school, children will be asked for their views. Mrs Cowie was already working on how to gather the views of parents and children about their experiences of lockdown.

Do schools have any level of influence with Council or Government plans for returning to school?

Headteachers have been in discussions with ELC about how the return to school can happen safely and effectively. This will continue throughout the summer holidays.

How will the induction for new P1s work given the lack of opportunity for the usual transition procedures?

It was noted that some schools had provided more extensive induction / transition experiences for children starting p1.

SM noted that children attending nursery at GPS have had opportunities to familiarise themselves with school setting and new P1 pupils have been invited to visit the school where their nursery has recommended it.

Angus McEwan noted that comparisons with other schools were unhelpful and that teachers in GPS have put tremendous effort into upskilling and responding to their pupils' needs.

Have children in GPS been engaging with home learning and, if not, what has been done to encourage engagement?

SM confirmed that less than 5% of pupils at GPS were not engaging with online learning. Pupils have been given hard copy packs of work and alternative possibilities for engaging in learning where they need it. All families who required access to IT hardware were loaned Chromebooks from school. As a result, SM was confident that access to IT was not a barrier to home learning for any child at GPS.

What will be the implications of building work in terms of contact between construction workers and pupils?

SM was still waiting for a firm date for builders to start. The partition wall (with a door) will be put up in the current P7 area over the summer holidays to provide an extra classroom because one of the classrooms in the other part of the school will be out of use once building work on the nursery begins. Any internal work will be done in the holidays and therefore there will be no direct contact between pupils and construction workers.

How will children be assessed for future learning upon their return?

SM noted that it is difficult to assess children when they're at home but that, as always, teachers would assess where children were with their learning on return to school in August. Teachers are used to having a range of different abilities to teach and next term would be no different in that respect. SM explained that they hadn't yet been told what resources would be available to support children with additional learning needs following the period of home learning.

How will communication work over the summer holidays, including Plans A, B, etc and risk assessments.

Parents will be kept updated as soon as plans are in place but SM did not think it was helpful to send out lots of information that would be liable to change, potentially confusing the situation further. Information on contingency plans (in case a blended learning model is required) will be shared as soon as the school gets the go-ahead from ELC. SM confirmed that risk assessments will be done before pupils and staff return to school.

8. AOCB

CJ thanked teachers again for all their hard work and creativity during lockdown and noted that it was good to have many teachers present at the meeting. She noted that our change of name and constitution had been intended to emphasise a partnership approach and welcomed staff as well as parents to attend in the future.

9. Dates of next meetings

TBC at the start of the academic year and sent out to parents