

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

### **Gullane Primary School Partnership Meeting**

**20<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**19.00 – 20.00**

**By Google Meet**

**Attendance:** Clare Jones (Chair), Jenny Gries (Deputy Chair), Joanna Heijmer-Mason (Clerk) Ronnie Taylor (Head Teacher), Maxine Cowie, Angus McEwan, Kathryn Gordon, Alison Gordon, LN (Fundraising Sub Committee co-chair), CC, CL, ES, FM, HH, NH, NS, PW, HS, NS, WS, ZM, FS, DD, Cllr Jeremy Findlay

Apologies: Nicola Smith

#### **1 Welcome from the Chair**

CJ welcomed Mr Taylor to his first meeting as headteacher and thanked everyone for their generous contributions to Mrs McGillivray's leaving present.

#### **2 Review of minutes from meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Adopted without any amendments or corrections.

#### **3 Update from PTA**

LN thanked everyone for their support last term. £4000 was raised and the family events that were hosted were well-received. Information about upcoming events will be distributed in the coming weeks.

CJ and MC thanked the PTA on behalf of everyone for the creative, fun, child-friendly outdoor events.

#### **4 Update from Mr Taylor**

##### *Introduction*

RT thanked the parents for such a warm welcome and said he felt happy to be in his new position despite a locked down school. He most recently worked as headteacher at Innerwick and Stenton Primary Schools, before which he worked in the Borders and Mid-Lothian. He lives in Longniddry and has two daughters in High School.

RT explained that his aim for Gullane Primary School is to develop Gullane as a learning community and provide the best possible experiences and outcomes for the children. He felt that the best way to do this was in collaboration with parents, children, community, etc. He looked forward to working with the parents, carers and families through the Partnership.

##### *Staffing*

RT noted that Mrs Elderfield's departure would be a great loss to the school, but confirmed that there would be an online commemoration of her time at Gullane PS.

A new member of staff, Mrs Clare Maycock, will shortly join the school as an auxiliary classroom assistant and will be joining the team initially providing cover at the school Hub.

RT confirmed that the Hub is functioning well and is operating with 8-14 children, split into two bubbles by age.

### *Remote Learning*

RT reported that he didn't know any more about the expected duration of remote learning although schools are being asked to prepare for blended learning models.

RT explained that staff are constantly looking at how they can best support children and parents but that there is a need to be aware that there is no 'one size fits all' model and it's impossible to provide for every request or family situation. Given the present difficulties, he felt that what is being offered by Gullane Primary School is of high quality and meets the aim to be as consistent as possible across the classes. Guidelines from teacher unions and local authorities are being followed. He felt the current school offer had been generally well-received. He accepted that it wasn't possible to make it perfect for everyone, however, the aim had to be to meet the needs of the majority and other resources (e.g. BBC Bitesize) were available to supplement the material from the school.

RT explained that he was looking at ways to get the children to connect and engage as a community, through challenges and assemblies.

RT felt that teacher feedback had been good and timely for most children. Class reps and individual parents have contacted respective teachers and everyone is engaged in dialogue about issues as they arise.

### *Feedback on remote learning*

RT confirmed his intention to send out a whole school survey to garner views and that remote learning was an evolving process informed by the children's experience. He outlined his plan for a JAM board or similar for parents to feedback on how well the process is working for them. More information will be provided on this in due course.

### *Timing of assigned work*

RT noted that some parents had requested work is assigned on the evening before, rather than in the morning. Although this was discussed at length, mitigating circumstances make this difficult as not all teachers can commit to this due to family commitments. It was felt that 8am was a more realistic target and we need to allow for flexibility in delivery.

### *Learning Conversations*

Following discussions with the Partnership chair and others, RT agreed that a face-to-face dialogue was a mutually beneficial experience for parents, children and teachers. To that end, there will be online learning conversations held between Monday 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb. Appointments of 10 minutes long will shortly be available to book online and details will be sent to parents about this.

CJ thanked RT for organising learning conversations. She also noted that it was good to hear that the new class rep system was working well for staff as well as parents. She thanked RT for his efforts to establish a system for collaborating feedback of people's experiences of remote learning.

### *Questions from parents*

M-C B asked whether there was any potential for more live sessions, or pre-recorded lessons. HS supported M-C B's point and wanted to reiterate how useful the pre-recorded videos were. Also a pre-recorded introduction to the day is very useful.

RT agreed that the pre-recorded videos were very valuable. However, teachers have different skills, styles and access to IT equipment and so cannot be compelled to provide this although most teachers do choose to do so. RT also noted that the time factor in creating videos is sometimes prohibitive. He also noted that some parents would rather have less reliance on screen-based activities. Staff noted that there were often technical difficulties with recording lessons and that since live lessons can't be recorded they do not provide equality of opportunity for children who can't attend them. Different teachers use video for different purposes including welcoming children and introducing to the day, introductions to specific activities and to encourage individuals who are struggling. . JG pointed out that audio clips are sufficient. We don't necessarily need video clips.

To summarise, RT hoped that pre-recorded videos would increase as everyone became more comfortable with them

HS asked whether Mrs Grainger would be back in the near future. RT confirmed that Mrs Grainger has been signed off until the end of the month and that he was grateful to the staff covering her class. CJ questioned why the other teachers were being asked to cover part of another class and whether this would mean excess workload for staff. RT noted that supply staff would not have access to lesson plans etc. JG felt that the team filling in for P1 was doing a great job and the fact they know the children was a great asset.

HS asked whether the classes provided by the specialist teachers (Music, Art, PE) could be more widely available across the years. RT noted that the specialists have been allocated to particular classes and that the material is not always appropriate to be used across all the year groups. However, plans are afoot for sharing access to specialists and providing

material shared across all the schools in the Authority.. Hopefully this may lead to a change in provision.

## **5 Update on construction work**

RT confirmed he'd had a meeting scheduled with the architect but it was cancelled so he would be in a better position to talk about this after he's spoken to the architect. Unknown factors, which may lead to delays are Brexit and the supply of materials.

## **6 Appointment of new Partnership members**

No new voting members proposed.

## **7 AOB**

CJ gave a vote of thanks for all Mrs Elderfield's hard work and said she will be very missed. There had been an outpouring of money for a leaving present from current and former families of the school and parents were requested to submit any ideas for presents. Many families and staff had also submitted slides with goodbye messages to form a farewell presentation,

CJ thanked everyone for attending and confirmed that all class reps will ask parents for issues to be raised before the next meeting.

## **8 Dates of Future Meetings**

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021