

**GULLANE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP – EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 16TH JUNE 2021
7PM – ONLINE MEETING**

Attendance: Clare Jones (Chair), Jenny Gries (Deputy Chair), Joanna Heijmer-Mason (Clerk) Ronnie Taylor (Head Teacher), Angus McEwan, LN (Fundraising Sub Committee co-chair), CC, CL, DM, FK, FK, LJ, Alison Gordon, Natasha O'Connor, NP, NS, PW, ZM, LB, SG, SM, WS,

Apologies: Tristan Heal, Hilary Smyth, Marie-Claire Brown

1. Welcome from Chair

The chair gave a special welcome to Mrs O'Connor, new deputy head, who said she was very pleased to be joining the school in August

2. Review of draft minutes from meeting held on 5th May 2021 (attached)

Approved without amendments.

3. Appointment of individual to review the annual accounts

It was agreed that Louise Bisset would be appointed to review this year's PTA accounts.

4. Update from PTA

COVID regulations allowing, an afternoon event will be held in the school grounds on 3rd September. Information to follow. Activities to be determined in line with regulations at the time.

CJ thanked the PTA for all their hard work this year.

5. Update from Mr Taylor, including:

Staffing

Mr Taylor updated on staffing arrangements for next session. There are still some outstanding positions to be filled but it is hoped that the full staff complement will be in place before August.

Reporting to parents

RT confirmed that reports will go home to parents on Thursday 17th June together with information about each child's teacher for next year.

Plans for return to school in August

RT reported that packing and getting ready for the next school year and moving into the new building was well underway.

RT noted that a recent letter from Lesley Brown did not indicate any changes to the guidance on COVID. This would be updated closer to the return of school. There was a desire to reduce the restrictions in place but decisions would be made based on local and national guidance in place in August.

CJ noted that the classes bubbles outdoors has not been popular and asked whether there would be a review of this. DM asked if there could be staggered times to allow children to have more time in the playground. RT explained that would require more playground support, removing support time from the classroom. RK said that she felt that there was a strong impact on mental health from the restrictions and where children were not allowed to play with children not in their class. RT noted that every school is bound by local authority rules. AM noted that as a class teacher he wanted to go back to 'normal' too but that it was fundamental to keep the children safe at school.

CJ questioned why the grass in the playground hadn't been cut for a long time. RT has been chasing this with the Council.

PW questioned the fencing around the perimeter of the school which is lower in some sections than in others. RT confirmed that all fencing will be raised to the higher height at the completion of building works.

DM asked how the introduction of the 1140 hours in nursery was going. RT said that the implementation had been affected by the pandemic and there would be an ongoing evaluation of how it was working.

6. School Improvement Plan

4 key priorities:

- 1) Raising attainment, with a particular focus on literacy, primarily writing.
- 2) Improving the wellbeing of all stakeholders, pupils and staff. RT explained his intention to have a consultation with the whole school community about our vision and values. Following that there will be a review of the curriculum rationale.
- 3) Implementation of year 3 of the building resilience programme, feeding into the Health and Wellbeing part of the curriculum.
- 4) Development of leadership within school for pupils and staff, giving staff more leadership opportunities and ensuring the pupil voice is heard.

RT noted that parents would be involved in the implementation and ongoing review of the SIP and that further communications would be issued to all parents early in the new session. He also for more engagement with the parents outwith the Partnership meetings. CJ commented that the parents having more defined roles within the community would be a positive change and would provide more varied opportunities for parental engagement.

7. Learnings from COVID

Different parents (HS, NS) noted different views on learning conversations being held online. They have advantages for working parents or parents who live separately but it was a shame not to meet a teacher in person. It was suggested that, going forward, giving parents the choice between both options would be best?

Different views also expressed about gym kit being worn to school (NS finds it confusing, JHM felt it was a positive as children don't have to change at school which is generally disliked and wastes time).

8. Update on construction work, including:

CJ noted that there had been a significant number of instances of large construction vehicles moving between the two parts of the school construction site at the start and end of the school day. The Partnership had been repeatedly assured that this would not happen. She was also concerned that this would be an issue during the summer when children would be using the Astro and the swing park and would be likely to be unsupervised. Jim Goodfellow agreed to raise this issue with the Council.

CJ raised the issue of heavy loads being lifted over the nursery path. The builders deny this happened but two parent witnesses are certain that it did. RT agreed to monitor the situation closely. CJ also raised parking of delivery vehicles on pavements which obstructs safe access routes to school, especially for children using wheelchairs or parents using prams or buggies. CJ agreed to write to the council formally to raise this issue.

On the issue of safe routes to school, RT agreed to remind parents that where possible children should walk, cycle or scoot to school and that where driving was unavoidable, that they should park away from the school and walk the last part of the journey. This is important to keep the roads around the school as safe as possible. In all circumstances, parents and carers should avoid parking on double yellow lines near the school which obscures children's views when crossing the road.

PW asked if double yellow lines could be added around the school gates. No one was able to answer whether this might be appropriate or not.

9. Appointment of new Partnership members

Rosie Kendall was appointed as a member of the Partnership.

10. AOB

HS noted that the next Gullane Village Association (GVA) newsletter would go out at the end of August and anyone wishing to submit copy for it should submit it by mid-July.

Hilary Smyth advised that £5000 had been awarded for a 'Summer of play'. It was not yet clear how this would be allocated. This was being discussed by the GVA and various organisations would be providing play opportunities for children.

Clare Jones and Jenny Gries will be resigning from their positions as Chair and Deputy Chair in September so the Partnership will be welcoming new candidates for these positions. Joanna Heijmer-Mason also intended to stand down but was willing to stay in position for a little longer if required to ensure some continuity.

11. Dates of future meetings

AGM to be held in September, date tbc.

JG asked if Partnership meetings could be coordinated with Aberlady Parent Council meetings.

CJ agreed to do this.