

Mauricewood Primary School  
Parent Council Meeting 01/06/23 Minutes

In attendance: JM, SW, VR, AS, DM, LH

Agenda Item	
Head Teachers Report (JM)	<p><b>Staffing</b> - staffing levels are currently at the lowest they have ever been. Midlothian Council are unable to provide further substitute teacher cover at current time.</p> <p>P2 - Mrs Anderson will remain absent until summer break. Class will be covered by teaching staff, and the Learning assistant in the class is permanent so is a known face to the children to provide consistency for them</p> <p>P1/2 Mrs Cunningham remains absent following her partner's surgery. Her return to school remains unknown at this time. Mrs McGee is teaching class two days a week to provide stability for learners.</p> <p>There currently is no Support for learning allocation as all support for learning teachers are covering classes. Provision of support for learning sits with class teachers at the current time.</p> <p>Senior leadership team is also missing 1 member (from 3 to 2 as Mrs Cunningham was acting depute head)</p> <p>Mrs GC who provides cover for class teachers Non class contact time (NCCT) is also absent.</p> <p>Mrs McGillivray also absent.</p> <p>Mrs McClelland is starting a phased return to work and will be helping to cover classes throughout the school.</p> <p>Office staff will be down one member of staff from next week until the end of term.</p> <p>Midlothian Council is undergoing a joint recruitment process for teachers throughout the authority and both Mrs Mouat and Mrs Woodyer have been involved in the interview process. They are hopeful we will have a full allocation of staff by next term. There will be one newly qualified teacher (NQT) which has been supported and worked well in previous years.</p> <p>Current staffing levels have impacted the ability to plan the class allocation for next year. It is hoped the teaching staff will know their class for next year shortly.</p>

	<p>It is expected that there will be 14 classes next year.</p> <p><b><u>Learning Assistants(LA)</u></b> - Midlothian Council have altered the process of allocation learning assistant hours.They look at school roll and levels of deprivation to split the hours amongst the authority. There is hope that in future years the allocation will also take into account the number of learners with additional support needs (ASN) into the allocation.</p> <p>We currently use 210hrs of LA allocation with expectation that within 2023-24 year we will need 238hrs.. Midlothian Council has provided 156 hrs for next year. With use of creative budgeting Mrs Moaut has secured funding for the hours required using various sources of income.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Pupil equity fund - this money can be used but has to be reported on to show the impact it has had.</li> <li>- MOD funding</li> </ul> <p>Currently LA's are majority supporting individual learners with ASN to manage inclusivity and educational requirements.</p> <p>PEF - currently funds homeschool practitioner role and will continue to do so next year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supplementary LA hours</li> <li>- £3000 of PEF funding will also be held to help with the 'cost of the school day', providing and supporting learners with trips, equipment, clothing as required. This amount can be further discussed with the Parent Council in terms of participatory budgeting.</li> </ul>
Question	<p>How is it equitable to allow the school to have to fund its own building repairs when we are given reducing amounts of money?</p> <p>Answer: It was explained that an application can be put in to request building repairs refunded but it cannot be budgeted for as this is not known in advance. Parents feel this is massively unfair as new schools require less upkeep than old buildings.</p>
HT Report (cont)	<p><b><u>Curriculum Rationale</u></b> - JM read out the aspirational statement that has been compiled from responses from learners, parents and staff alike.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Curriculum Rationale: Aspirational Statement</a></p> <p><a href="#">At Mauricewood we aspire for our young people to be confident, kind and rights-respecting. We want them to live independent lives, follow their chosen individual paths and develop the knowledge, skills and resilience required to thrive in a changing world. We want them to manage positive, healthy relationships, pursue careers and activities they enjoy and embrace opportunities to succeed in different areas of life.</a></p>

There is significant work to do across the curriculum to ensure consistency in all areas. It would be used to determine the staples of Mauricewood.

Visions, values and aims are already in place. Next, try to develop 3 key values. From the parent, learner and staff responses the following words were flagged as what was important to the Mauricewood community - confidence, creativity, inclusion, independence, kindness, resilience, nurture, compassion, responsibility.

**Anti Bullying Charter** - parent questionnaire responses noted. Pupils given takeaway task from assembly to come up with a shared definition of bullying. Mauricewood would like the anti bullying charter to be inclusive of all learners, parents and staff input.

**Attainment Levels** - current attainment levels set in May. Levels are split into 4 levels - numeracy, reading, writing, listening and talking.

P1 - levels are above 80% will meet stretch aims

P4 levels will not meet stretch aims, there are more learners struggling in this level than the others.

P7 levels are in the 80-90% will achieve stretch aims.

**School Improvement Plan** - at recent inservice day staff were asked to write down highlights and successes from this year.

Discussion led to how could these things be improved on and the garden was discussed. Voluntary support would be beneficial here: Vinca to approach local gardening group to see if they would be interested in helping. Anyone who would like to approach local homebuilders working in the area to provide funding or assistance with garden or library would also be appreciated.

The Standards and Quality report will be published on the school website in Sept 2023. Midlothian council have a much more rigorous plan which will lead to a much more coherent School improvement plan - which will include raising attainment and inclusion as two main focus groups.

At Mauricewood the aim is also to look at children's rights by continuing to use the 'learner voice' but use it much more widely throughout the curriculum. Also to include outdoor learning as a staple and to build on the learning already taking place. Inclusion - using 'The Circle Document' MAuricewood will aim to have all classroom and environments be suitable and ensure they are meeting the needs of all our learners. There is also hope that we will return to having class lead assemblies where the learners lead.

**Sports Day** - Monday 5th June. Date has been on app calendar for some time. Was a request that the message reminder does not leave a lot of

	<p>time to accommodate work.</p> <p>It was noted that communication is restricted currently due to staffing levels.</p> <p><b>P1 transitions</b> -for the incoming primary 1 classes have begun. New P1 parent evening on the 8.6.23 at 5.30pm.</p> <p>Meet the teacher event on 15/6/23 for new P1 intake. P1 intake will also get class visits and woodland visits as last year.</p> <p><b>Next term Classes</b> - classes will meet their teachers in due course. Enhanced transition documentation will go on see saw with pictures of the new teacher, classroom and some basic information to aid in the transition of learners.</p> <p><b>Trips</b> - trips are ongoing and all classes will have had a trip by the end of term.</p> <p><b>P7 Leavers</b> - P7 Leavers assembly will be on the 27th June at 2pm.</p> <p><b>Reports</b> - reports for this year are written and being checked by SLT. They will be issued to parents/carers but Mid/Late June.</p> <p>There has been discussion around changing the format of reports for learners and discussions with staff, learners and parents will come this year. There is no set format for reporting across midlothian, with the only requirements being a record of attendance and a record of the levels the learner is achieving. Discussion around using seesaw, or other methods of reporting discussed.</p>
Question	<p>Due to low staff levels would volunteers be helpful in school?</p> <p>Answer: YES! Volunteering can be in many shapes - paired reading, helping in the classroom, helping with admin tasks, assisting in the playground. Any parent/carer volunteers would be welcome. JM requests that someone write a flyer to encourage volunteers.</p>
Question	<p>Will Support for learning be stopped at the current time?</p> <p>Answer : see staffing issues above.</p>
Parent Council Chair Meeting Report (AS)	<p>Parent engagement survey- From Gail Currie (Parental and Pupil Engagement officer) to be released shortly.</p> <p>Discussion around school hours being reduced - Midlothian Council meets the requirements of the Scottish government for school hours currently.</p>

	Health and Safety update - there needs to be further work done around the health and safety and risk assessments surrounding PC and PTA planned activities.
AOB	No further dates set for meetings. These to be set ASAP. It was noted that the AGM will need to be held prior to Sept 2023 - suggested for mid August. Date TBC