

**Mauricewood Primary School
Parent Council and PTA Meeting
12th October 2023**

6.30pm Mauricewood Primary School.

Agenda

Apologies
Acceptance of minutes from previous meeting
Head Teachers Report
Parent Council Chairpersons Reports - including Beeslack High School Update
School improvement plan - (overview)
Improvement Priorities for this session/Funding from other sources
Reporting
Communication/ App/Seesaw
AOB
Date of next meeting

In Attendance: JM, SW, JC, AS, VR, EW, RG, LH, MP

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Apologies	KP, GM, DM	
Acceptance of minutes	Minutes accepted. It was asked that a copy of the minutes be sent to all email contacts of parents who have been involved in PC.	LH to email minutes to mailing list.
Head Teachers Report	Staffing update - Clara Crawford -Learning assistant, has returned from Maternity Leave. LH has left as Learning Assistant and 15 hour LA post will be advertised after October break. That position will be for Equity Support. SA (P2A teacher) planning to return after Oct holiday on phased return. Jo Casidy will support the phased return. Office vacancy - permanent post, currently advertised. Permanent DHT post is being interviewed on 2.11.23, PC representative DM.	JM to further investigate the infant playground climbing frame. LH to put attainment on agenda for next meeting.

	<p>Successes: Parent consultations went well, positive feeling in school, lovely to have p7 involved. P7 involved in the market place gathering information. Supporting MOD families, reporting, school values. High turnout of parents attending.</p> <p>Book fair - was well attended and P7's ran this in the evening at parent consultations.</p> <p>Cricket - Penicuik cricket club are providing 4 week 40 minute taster sessions. P1, P4/5, 5, 6 and P7's. The rest of the classes will receive their sessions at a later date.</p> <p>Pupil Voice groups - learning council , eco committee, rights respecting group.</p> <p>Harvest assembly was a success, good turn out of parents, and great donations to Food Fact Friends. P5/6 and P6 performed excellently.</p> <p>Class charters for UNCRC rights of the child will be completed shortly and shared on seesaw. Classes have all attended assemblies regarding this.</p> <p>SMT are out in the playground on a morning to integrate with parents and children, available to catch for a quick question.</p> <p>Challenges: no more wasps or floods!!!</p> <p>Infant playground risk assessment - a small increase in injuries from rough and tumble play. Only 3 significant incidents since august. P1-3 were spoken to at assembly about this, in an attempt to minimise this.</p> <p>VR- asked about ice risk assessment. Midlothian council does not grit playgrounds. Biggest concern is that the nursery playground sand pit leaks and floods the infant playground. JM met with the School group manager about solutions for this. School staff will daily risk ice in winter. Janitor will grit pathways to door access.</p> <p>SW - also states that in winter the 2 main access doors are Salamanca gate and Mauricewood Hill.</p>	
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	<p>Adventure zone- maze and remains of old fence removal is going to be done by a parent who is Gardener and then will be checked by Health and Safety from Midlothian Council.</p> <p>Infant playground climbing frame remains out of bounds. JM to get a quote regarding this</p> <p>LB looking into outdoor gym equipment grant. Looking for PC support for grant application.</p> <p>Visit 1 - quality improvement visit 2/10/23 . Looking at raising attainment and achievement . Full attainment details will be discussed at the next PC meeting .</p> <p>Halloween update : 5/10/23 PTA fundraising meeting had 5 attendees. Decision has been made that halloween parties are not going ahead due to lack of parent support. However the halloween events will happen on the 27/10/23 during school time. It is an optional event. Dress up or dress down, pumpkin carving, guess the sweets in the bucket. Information will be sent out on seesaw, app and paper copies. Some of the Donuts have been donated by Tesco.</p> <p>MP asked <u>Question</u> - can children attend if they haven't paid the funds? <u>answer</u> - yes of course - funding will never be a barrier to a child attending events at Mauricewood.</p>	
<p>PC Chairperson report</p>	<p>AS - attended meeting regarding the Beeslack High Replacement High School. Lots of discussion that budget is in, consultations for parents will come in towards end of calendar year. Tight time scale. Building hopefully starting soon, aiming for completion end of December 2026 - this is not full completion, just building structure. Road infrastructure is also being looked at.</p> <p>Beeslack High will remain open - S1-S3 will be offered to move to the new school, seniors will be allowed to stay to sit exams if they choose. Mauricewood will not be in the catchment area for the new high school.</p> <p>New High School will be the centre of excellence</p>	

	<p>STEAM , but resources will be shared across the council.</p> <p>The council are keen to open a school with enough capacity, and future proof it. The Lifelong learning team will move to the new school and swimming lessons will run there. Public access to shared spaces will be allowed. Main concern is that the main campus is across a main road from the sports field. Current Beeslack Pupils are being asked what they like/or would like in the new school. Midlothian council are working with Deaf community, JM - asked if they have ASN input.</p> <p>There is a new unit for ASN pupils with high level needs and medical interventions, including a hydrotherapy pool.</p> <p>Safe walking routes are under discussion.</p>	
School improvement plan (overview)	Plan is on the website - discussion at the next meeting, parents are invited to look at the plan and bring questions to the next meeting.	LH to add to agenda for next meeting
Improvement Priorities for this session/ External funding	This will be discussed at next meeting	LH to add to agenda for next meeting
Reporting	<p>It is hoped that Seesaw can be used as a reporting tool, and will form the child's main learning journal. It is hopeful that this would be standardised across the school.</p> <p>The standard issued report was discussed - the reports are issued in June have to start being written in March. These reports take a minimum of 1 hour per child. Each teacher will write these at Easter, they have to be read by SMT, returned, printed proof read , enveloped and by this point the next step in the child's learning may be obsolete.</p> <p>If the reporting was changed to use termly</p>	JM to investigate if seesaw can be downloaded.

	<p>information it would give a bigger overall picture of the child as a learner.</p> <p>Parents nights are protected.</p> <p>Termly updates would be an expectation, and a brief report at the end of term. The statutory requirements of a report is documentation of attendance and level of achievements. End of term minimal report would give a brief overview of the pupil as a learner.</p> <p>AS - <u>question</u> - can the seesaw reporting be downloaded to use as evidence for medical diagnosis?</p> <p>EW - <u>question</u> - how would changing the report system affect the teachers? JM is going to discuss this with staff.</p> <p>JM has requested that if your child is not on track to achieve the expected level for their age, that parents would be informed of that at parents night by the teacher.</p>	
<p>Communication App/Seesaw</p>	<p>SW - has spoken to School App people - reported problems, and the app will isn't functioning well at current time.</p> <p>Costs £400.00 a year. Parents find the app clunky.</p> <p>JM - asked that PC can discuss if the app is useful, how big a problem is it in the school community. Messages sometimes glitch.</p> <p>Feedback from parents night - one online platform for all information from school.</p> <p>JM - school app, seesaw, and groupcall. Groupcall is expensive. Information on the app is easier to add.</p> <p>The school would like to get the communication right but the school needs to know what the issues are, regarding communication from the parent body.</p> <p>Seesaw - inservice day will be spent on seesaw training with all teaching staff.</p>	

	<p>If seesaw isn't used correctly - then parental engagement is lower.</p> <p>Seesaw can be used to encourage our learners to share their learning and lead their own learning.</p> <p>Pupil engagement can be increased by children knowing their next steps in learning.</p> <p>JM is hoping that seesaw will be used more thoroughly by christmas.</p> <p>Jm to look at other options for school app.</p>	
AOB	<p>MP - Infant playground cars - P1 parents are concerend about shoes being ruined by using cars. In playground. SMT to look at use of cars/ buggies.</p> <p>MP - asked about recorders - how they were cleaned. Answer - Recorder group has not run for many.</p> <p>MP - Question - where would you find the link to the curriculum? JM explained curriculum for excellence has 8 areas, this links can be shared.</p> <p>Question about PTA and what the fundraising is for this year. Answer - The PTA have always fundraised so that school can put requests in for specific things when required ie. class set of ipads, subsidising bus travel for class trips, specific pieces of equipment. The fundraising has always been seen to provide fun activities/equipment for the children to enjoy. End of term fun day, picnic, games for together time.</p>	JM/SW to share the link to the cirriculum for excellence on school app and school website
Date of next meeting	<p>Thursday 16/11/23 6.30pm in school.</p> <p>Subsequent meetings: 18th Jan 2024 (virtual) 22nd Feb 2024 (virtual) 14th March 2024 18th April 2024 16th May 2024</p>	

Agenda Item for next meeting:

School improvement plan

Attainment

PC constitution

Improvement Priorities for this session/ External funding