

Greenbrae School Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 26th April 2016 - 6.30pm

Attendees: Miss Anna Royle, Mrs Alison Flett, Mrs Louise Ellis, Mrs Gill Bruce, Mrs Karen Dey, Mrs Emma Kidd, Mrs Sarah Burnett, Mrs Laura McKenzie, Mrs Kam Cockburn, Mr Bruce Reid, Ms Claire Cowan, Ms Maria Thies (ACC), Cllr Stewart, Cllr Jaffrey.

Apologies: Mr Tim Galloway, Mr Lee Brody, Mrs Elaine Milne

1) News school meals payment system

- Bruce Reid: ACC Catering Services, presented an introduction to the new Accord Card for paying for and selecting school meals.
- Following an 18 month pilot of a new school meal system, (initially at Walker Road, Airyhall and Tullos Primary Schools in the City) the go ahead was given in December 2015 to introduce the new system to all primary schools across the City.
- Greenbrae School hope to get the ICT Infrastructure in place for this by 9th May 2016. It is hoped that the system will go live in the school before the end of this term.
- ACC will send out a letter and a leaflet to all parents/carers before the system goes live with full information.
- The new system cuts out the need for cash payments for tickets. Parents/ carers pay on-line, (to an individual pupil account), and then top up as needed, with built-in balance alerts to be sent out to parents, as required.
- Each pupil will receive a "smart card" called a Kidz card which will be kept in a box in their individual classroom. Each day the pupils will be given an opportunity to use their card to swipe a large computer screen which will ask them to identify what they would like for lunch that day, from the choice of 3 things, with pictures to identify them.
- The meal price will then be automatically deducted from the pupil's account, unless they receive free meals.
- The choice made will be for the day's main course only, and does not include drinks, puddings or vegetable accompaniments. Once made, the pupil cannot change their mind.
- The cards are then collected by the class teacher and stored in the classroom until needed for the next day. The school cook will receive all of the data entered and this will allow for accurate planning of the meals for that day, with an aim of ensuring each child receives their preferred menu option and reducing the amounts of waste products /food handling/ ACC total costs.
- The system will know if a child has any known allergies/dietary requirements and therefore for example a vegetarian will only be offered a vegetarian option on screen.
- If a child has no current credit, they will still get a meal, and it will be deducted from their account once the parent/carer has topped it up.
- Parent/carers will continue to receive details of the school meals on offer at home.

2) Greenbrae School Extension:

Claire Cowan (ACC) updated the Parent Council:

- The Gas Pipe (unexpected find) has now been re-routed, so the temporary boiler can be removed soon.
- Easter Break saw a specialist team remove asbestos from parts of the ceiling, when the children were off. Air testing was done following this.
- The sub-structure work of the concrete flooring and insulation cannot be done until the weather is at the correct temperature (warmer). The contractor is monitoring the temperature closely and has been doing other works whilst this cannot be done.
- It is estimated that the build is only currently 12 days behind schedule, and this can be made up in the future with approved weekend work being carried out.
- Claire Cowan is to get an updated contractors programme of the work tomorrow.
- Nursery decant to Glashieburn School (Aug-Oct 2016 period term), Claire has met with Glashieburn School staff and the care inspectorate and a new additional toilet and nappy change area will be developed over the summer holidays ready to be in place for the joint Nursery area at Glashieburn in August 2016.
- Claire will organise (with Anna Royle) dates for parent drop-in sessions and also a newsletter for Greenbrae Nursery parents soon to discuss/receive feedback on the arrangement.
- The distance from Greenbrae to Glashieburn is 0.8 miles.
- Parent Council members mentioned the possibility of a Buddy Parent Lift system might work.
- It was noted again that the childminders in the area may find it difficult if they are walking with a wide range of younger and older children to two different schools.
- A temporary before school service at Greenbrae was suggested by a parent council member for those with older children in the school who will be affected by the temporary Nursery arrangements. Anna Royle will look into this as it would require teaching staff cover before 9am and may not be feasible.

- There are no plans yet to start or facilitate an after-school club at Greenbrae School, however new extended pipework has been included in the current extension plans which could potentially serve an area required for this type of facility. Any out of school club would require further planning and approval by the Care Inspectorate, and a new budget for additional funds approved. This would not be run by the school but by an external company, thus it would require such an organisation to determine demand and approach the school/City Council.

3) Travel to Greenbrae School

- Maria Thiers from the ACC Estates team also attended the meeting. She has been looking at long-term options for parking around Greenbrae School (very limited areas)
- A Park and Stride scheme has been looked at and the Dubford Baptist Church were agreeable for the school to use their car park at certain set times of the day to drop off (08.30am-09.30am) and to pick up pupils from the School (14.45-15.45pm), and the Council could support this to upgrade with extra signs and markings if needed.
- However, it was discussed how realistically this would actually be used, as Parents who live close-by walk anyway, and those on their way to work need to drop off closer to the school, wait for the bell, and go quickly. In adverse weather conditions, parents with children would not want to walk that distance up/down the hill. Furthermore, children who live in the new development effectively would have to pass the school to get to the church at the top of the road which would be unlikely.
- Idea of a One –Way System past the School was discussed. A recent survey has been sent out to the residents of Greenbrae Crescent, (by ACC) to discuss options for easing the congestion and there was more support for a one-way system than there has been previously. These findings will be presented by the Estates team at the next CHI Committee Meeting.
- Teachers at Greenbrae have recently completed a staff survey asking them about the possibility of car sharing.

4) Head Teacher Update

- Staffing update - Anna McKerchar (P7) has started at the school, and has given very positive feedback both to the pupils and staff on the general good behaviour and ethos of the P7 pupils, which is a credit to the school, pupils and staff.
- A vacancy has been advertised yesterday (26/04/16) for an Early Years Principal Teacher post for Greenbrae, and the school awaits new applicants.
- Next year, Greenbrae School will celebrate 40 years since it opened in October 1977. It is hoped to mark this anniversary and Anna Royle welcomed ideas for celebrating this milestone.
- Class Photograph – The school will do a parental survey to ask parents which type of school photo they prefer and in what format before next year and feedback the results.
- The school's revised Vision and Aims will go out to the staff on Thursday 5th May, and following that, it will be shown to the parents, in order for them to give feedback.
- A Creative Learning Technologies team have been invited to the school next week to meet Anna to support the learning of the children around the current construction that's going on around them. It will be a long-term project and they are an expressive arts-based team.
- The School Improvement Plan will be discussed at the next Parent Council Meeting.

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- It was asked if pupils could be reminded to respect all school property. An example was given of a repeated incident of pupils from the infant year group climbing over the school fence at the rear of the school at the end of the school day. The fences are not built to hold their weight, (safety issues) and this is also setting a bad example to other pupils.
- The Nursery is to start "Outdoor Wednesdays" with Miss Crozier. Outings will include outdoor learning at the beach, Duthie Park, and in the local woods.
- Louise Ellis has forwarded the new Parent Council Training dates for this term if anyone wishes to attend.
- The date set for the next City wide Parent Council meeting is on Tuesday 31st May 2016
- The next Special Needs Forum meeting date is on Thursday 19th May 2016, at Northfield; 14.00-15.00pm.
- Recently, Louise and Emma attended the local BoD joint Parent Council subgroup meeting. A new BoD Parents Subgroup was formed who will meet and invite an Education Officer from ACC to attend their next meeting and explain the plans for education/schools in the area within the near future.
- Greenbrae Drive Zebra Crossing: Cllr Stuart to chase this up to ask for a definite start date for the work as it is deemed urgent for child safety by the Parent Council.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 7th June at 6.30pm – in the School Staff Room.