

Present	Gillian Meek, Laura Thomson, Emma Clater, Laura Scott, Ann Wheeler, Jim Campbell, Ellie Bird, Hilary Gorrie, Polly Markham, Simon Lamb, Rodger Hepburn.
Apologies	Kasia Amro, Mark Downie
Date	Tuesday 25 August 2020
Chair	Emma
Minutes	Gillian

1) Previous minutes

These were accepted.

2) Treasurer's report

Current balance is £924.27. We're still waiting for this year's money from the council. Rodger has a contact who can audit the accounts for us and he will arrange for this to be done.

3) School update

The children seem delighted to be back!

School staff have surveyed parents to get their views on how the new arrangements are working. They got 84 responses (on behalf of 95 children). The detailed results are attached but in general, these are favourable. Social distancing at the gate seems to have improved during this second week.

We noted that teachers are using the soft drop-off time to focus on H&WB and resilience.

School staff are following the policies of CEC and the Scottish Govt. Outdoor time is compulsory. All children are having packed lunches at the moment – these are eaten outside on folding chairs. Packed lunch provision will be reviewed by the council in October.

PE is also outdoors wherever possible as use of the gym hall isn't currently allowed. We noted that commercial gyms open from Monday 31st but have not been given a date for the school gym hall to be back in use. Children in the upper school who need to change for PE are catered for individually – as they always have been. P1 will be having PE outdoors soon.

We discussed whether the school could make more use of Park Road Park. The problem is that the grass is very long just now. Budget for grass cutting has been impacted by the extra costs to fight Covid19. – it has cost £30m more than budgeted for CEC to get schools open. Any members of the community can volunteer to do this – they should contact Jim if interested. The PC might consider advertising this opportunity in our next newsletter.

We have extra cleaning being done in school throughout the day.

Laura is hoping to communicate the latest arrangements to parents every Monday if time allows.

Our family support worker is currently available in school every Wednesday.

Only essential visits are permissible in school currently, limiting Therapist visits to the school. Ann will write to Ellie Bird re this.

There is no School Improvement Plan this year – instead there is a Recovery Plan. This is focussed on:

- H&WB
- Equality – including BLM and anti-bullying
- Learning and teaching – including catching up, digital learning and outdoor learning strategy.

Hilary has drafted a new Curriculum Rationale and sent this to the Parent Council for review. She would like responses by 8 September please. Gillian to cascade this.

Active schools programme still hasn't restarted as kids still need to be in bubbles. This will be revisited in October.

Staff news

We have a new 'catch-up' teacher who is responsible for closing the attainment gap. He covers the cluster. Staff met him this week. Like other staff, he can only teach in 2 bubbles per day.

Ms McKinlay is currently working from home and is supporting home learning activities – including those who need to be quarantined. Ms Dwyer is covering P5 Wednesdays and Thursdays. Mrs Suttie is considering going part-time. If this goes ahead we will consider recruiting for part-time cover.

Two PSAs have gone on to do teacher training and so we are advertising for replacements.

There will be no teaching practice until October at least.

4) Questions from parents

1 If one person in the class gets sent home with symptoms should the whole class not be off for 7 days?

The guidelines state that no action should be taken unless someone tests positive. If a child or adult tests positive, Miss Thomson informs her boss at City Edin Council who then assesses the risk and makes a decision about what action to take - this could be action which affects the class and/or results in a deep clean, or some other measures.

2 When will other professionals (SALT, OT etc..) will be able to visit kids with additional needs at their school environment?

Victoria are following Council/Govt guidance on this but don't have a date as yet. Part of the reason is that each professional is only allowed to work within 2 bubbles (classes, basically) each day which is very restrictive.

Miss Thomson and Mrs Gorrie are happy to speak individually to any parent who is concerned about this.

3 I have some questions about the class organisation for the new school. Will there be two classes for each year? With increased housing being built in this area and catchment changes can we expect Edinburgh Council to release the funds for additional teachers rather than proposing composition classes? If not, is there anything we can do to support the school with lobbying for more funding/teachers?

The new school building will be 2 stream - allowing for 2 classes at each level. It has been designed to be converted to a 3 stream in the future if the numbers justify this. The class structure is set by the Council every year based on the numbers that enrol for P1 in November. While the teaching team would love to have complete classes every year, rather than composite, this isn't always possible.

There's always the option to lobby the Council if parents aren't happy with the classes that have been set - this is something the Parent Council would look at.

5) After school club

Simon gave us an update. Staff were furloughed for the lockdown period but ASC had enough reserves to see they were paid in full. ASC currently have use of the playground and dining hall. Demand has reduced slightly due to some parents being at home but there is still a short waiting list for places. The staff/children ratio meets the guidelines. Parents would like to thank ASC for their support during the lockdown activities – it was much appreciated.

Laura and the PC would like to thank Moira for all her hard work on the risk assessments done to get ASC back up and running.

6) AOB

Future meetings – Gillian to speak to Kayleigh about plans for the AGM – we may look to postpone this to the new year. Gillian then to send proposed dates to Laura.

Heart of Newhaven – CEC have agreed to sell them the building. To support their funding bid, it would be helpful to have some quotes on what it would mean to members of the community to have this resource. Ann to contact Roger re publicising this.