

Murrayfield Academy Council

23 September 2021 at 9:30am

Via Google Meet

Attendees: Claire Willis (Headteacher)
Louise Leah – Academy Council Member – Minutes
Jo Brown – Academy Council member
6 other parents
2 members of the Student Leadership team joined at the start

Engagement and Communication

The meeting heard from 2 pupils from the Student Leadership Team, who explained their role in school. They spoke about the videos they had made to welcome new students to the school, the gardening work they have been doing and how they have written to local businesses to raise funds for the library. They have plans to encourage more children to come to Murrayfield and are working on a project around careers development. It was pleasing to see a student body that are actively involved in making their school a better place.

Swimming Pool Update

The school have struggled to get contractors to come in over the summer to begin repair work. Radar analysis showed that the leak underground was thankfully leaking into a drain. It also showed that the pool had damage. The pool was due to be ready for September but there has been delays so there is no opening date at present. The School and Paradigm are proactively working to resolve the issues and are committed to keep this valuable resource. The Board have spent £13,500 on the investigations so far – this money has not come from school funds. The school have looked into using other pools but these have no space for bookings. Claire will update parents when there is progress on this.

Covid Routines and Procedures

In June, the school asked parents, in a Google Forms survey, if they want to keep the one way system in the playground – the result at that time was to keep the one way system. Another survey was sent out in September – 75% of people wanted to remove the one way system. Some parents want to keep it but the school needs to go with the majority, so the one-way system has been removed. Parents can now enter and exit at either gate (park gate or Nacton Road gate).

Claire clarified the situation with the car park gate and the dangers of having this open. Claire explained the gate and fence is Murrayfield property, but the car park is not - this belongs to the Murrayside centre. There are 400 children in school, so if a quarter were to exit by that gate, that would be 100 children walking through the car park. If those children each have a parent with them, that's 200 people. There are also other users of the car park on top of that. There was a recent accident with van entering the car park and hitting a car that was coming out. After considering all this, the school have decided that the gate will remain closed as the safety of the children has to remain the top priority.

Emotional Wellbeing Support

To support children getting back into routines, 2 new roles have been created - Behaviour and Learning Lead, and Early Years Transition Lead.

The school are planning a family event for Nursery and Reception classes – families will be invited into school to learn or do some crafts with their children etc. Information will be coming out soon.

Claire reported that there are 2 spaces in nursery, 3 spaces in reception and year 2 is full.

Claire detailed the support available in school for children who need support with their emotional wellbeing:

- Tier 1 – class teacher can identify issues and put support in place in the classroom
- Tier 2 – Nadia Khan, who is Emotional Literacy trained, can work with a child on a one-to-one basis
- Tier 3 - School can refer to Teenage Mental Health (private counselling and therapy team).

As the NHS and Emotional Wellbeing Hub have long waiting lists, Paradigm buys into a private company, called Teenage Mental Health team (which, despite the name, do cover primary age children). They are able to provide therapy sessions to help children with all kinds of issues. The school can make a referral and an appointment will be offered within a few days for an assessment and regular therapy sessions can begin within a week. Parents are encouraged to speak with Claire if they feel this would be useful for their child.

Educational Visits

Claire explained the visits that are planned for all year groups in the coming year:

- EYFS – Jimmy's farm
- Year 1 and 2 – Pizza Express visit (to plan, make and eat pizza as part of food tech)
- Year 3 – St Edmundsbury Cathedral
- Year 4 – Colchester Castle (Roman Britain) and Sutton Hoo (Anglo Saxon)
- Year 5 – Hampton Court Palace (Tudors)
- Year 6 – St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Imperial War Museum

A parent asked if the Ipswich Museum sleepover could be repeated as this was very memorable. Claire reported this was a brilliant experience for previous Year 6's and she would be keen to repeat this. The school have links with the Museum and will look into this. Year 6 will have a residential trip in summer term.

Claire has plans to invite people in to talk about their job roles. She has links with a marketing company, genetics, vaccinations, fire brigade, police, teachers etc. To encourage children to think about their future aspirations, there are posters around the school of the Student leadership team saying what they want to be when they grow up.

A parent suggested that the school could explore if any parents have interesting jobs that they would be willing to talk about. This could be done in school or a video recording.

Any Other Business

Sports Day

Parents expressed that they really enjoyed the Sports Day in the summer term. It was clear that a lot of planning and hard work had gone into it and it was enjoyed by children, parents and staff. A parent said that it was 'the best sports day ever' and parents are looking forward to what the school will do next time. Thank you to everyone involved.

There was no other business, so Claire ended the meeting by thanking parents for attending and encouraging anyone with any further questions, to speak with her in school.