MINUTES

Port Ellen Primary School Parent Council

Monday 21st March 2016: 6.30pm: Port Ellen Primary School

# In Attendance

Maureen Macdonald, Mary Swanson, Maggie Harrison, Sally Campbell, Lorna Millsopp & Linda Kirkpatrick

Apologies from: Kate Brown, Maria Heads & Bonnie Wood

# Approval of Minutes

Minutes from previous meeting were approved by Mary, seconded by Maggie

# Chairpersons Welcome

Mary opened meeting and welcomed all

# Stage Update

Progress has been made since last meeting. The stage is now erected with the exception of the black boarding, drums and chips to be laid to stop the wood rotting. The initial fiber glass panel sample was too rough and had to be remade as the spec was very rough. This led to an increase in cost to £2280. The school funds have paid £1600 and an invoice for the difference will be made out to the parent council for the remainder.

# Fundraising

We will continue to sell our tea towels and aprons - the drawing and colour will be changed in due course. Lorna Millsopp will organise the reintroduction of the recipe book as a fundraiser initially. Lorna will approach Sarah MacMillan and we will get the ball rolling for this soon. Linda will approach MV Finlaggan re selling these items onboard.

# Outside Play Equipment

All outside play equipment will eventually be changed to ‘natural’ products which will replace all plastics. One of the next playground resources for consideration will be a scrapstore. This is a small shed to be erected in the playground . The shed will be accessed by the children and allow them to play with a range of items . The idea is that children can be more imaginative and creative in their play and be able to effectively manage risk

# School Update

Staffing

Due to Argyll & Bute budget cuts, our Clerical Staff‘s hours have been decreased by 5%, Pupil Support Assistants have also been decreased by 20%, Classroom Assistants remain unchanged and ASN hours are currently being assessed.

The three classes will continue to be taught by three teachers.

Monies have become available to the Early Years. This can enable the school to make a larger Early Years room with updated facilities for younger children. To do this, the present P1/2 classrooms will swap with the Early Years classroom.

The ‘new’ Early Years room will be upgraded in two phases. Phase 1 will commence shortly and will be installation of a snack kitchen and have a cooker fitted but not connected.

Phase 2 will be the wiring of the cooker and to future proof the room to accommodate 2 year olds with the additional addition of toilet facilities and a changing area. A separate entrance/exit will also be required to have the Early Years a completely separate unit to the school.

Parents will be kept informed of any disruption during this period and updates will be made available on notice boards.

# National Improvement Agenda

The National Improvement Framework sets out our vision and priorities for our children’s progress in learning, delivering both excellence and equity whilst seeking to close the attainment gap.

The improvement plans key priorities are:

* Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy
* Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children
* Improvement in children and young people’s health and well being
* Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school leaver destinations for all young people

With the inclusion of the above, each school also has it’s own improvement plan. Our local school’s plan is:

* School improvements
* Leadership
* Teacher’s professionalism
* Assessments of children’s progress
* Parental engagement
* Performance information data

The schools priorities for improvement 2016/17 will reflect the NIF and also the Local Authority’s priorities. The school and Parent Council will keep parents updated with progress

Meeting closed: 8pm

Next Parent Council Meeting will be held in the school at 6.30pm on Monday 23/5/16 – everyone welcome!

If you have any questions or matters you wish to ask or discussed, please either see a member of the council (all names of members are on notice board), attend a meeting, or contact us direct : portellenparentcouncil@btinternet.com