**Port Ellen Primary School Parent Council Meeting**

**4pm 26th August 2020 via Zoom**

**In attendance;** Tina Cunningham, Linda Kirkpatrick, Maria Heads, Maureen MacDonald, Kate Brown, Katie Bonar, Bonnie Wood

**Apologies;** Moira Shakespeare,

**Minutes from the Last Meeting and Matters Arising**

The chair read through the minutes, much of what was discussed was not now needed as it related to blended learning etc. but all the planning will now form part of contingency planning in event of increased Covid related restrictions.

**Change to School Day**

Maureen explained that staggered breaks and staggered lunch times have caused problems, disrupting learning in the afternoon and putting a strain on already reducing staffing. Classroom assistant hours have been reduced meaning staff finish at 3pm so onus on Covid compliance is very much on class teachers. Maureen has thus been keen to have further discussion and consultation to explore options to address these issues.

The proposal is for the head of service to grant Port Ellen School permission to change the time of the school day temporarily with a view to changing the end of day time. The proposal is to cut out the afternoon break and a operate a 1-3.15pm afternoon session. The head of service did not grant it or give permission explaining that it was a process for elected members to approve. Since then, Maureen has discussed with Head of MAKI Service, who supports the idea but states that it needs further consultation as it affects transport, needs to go to members, parent council etc.

The process has been started with stage 1 complete. The suggested changes are proposed to commence 19th Oct pending the approval from all the different groups.

Maureen has contacted transport. Step 2 is to consult with Parent Council, she also has to consult with Facilities Manager. Maureen has prepared a questionnaire for parents, gauging the feeling from parents about how the return to school has been, gathering feedback. Part of the questionnaire will ask how parents feel about a 3.15pm closure. The questionnaire will be circulated very soon.

**VOTE FOR CHANGE OF HOURS TO SCHOOL DAY**

**The Parent Council were asked to vote for the proposed change to the school day from 3.30pm to 3.15pm.**

Bonnie For

Katie For

Linda For

Maria For

Tina For

**5 in favour.**

The feeling was that if parents worked until 5pm that they would have childcare in place 3-5 in any case.

No longer an issue of children having outdoor time, so not a worry that they are being deprived of an afternoon break.

Community Council need to be consulted as well as elected members so Maureen was asking who she needed to contact. Cllr Currie, and suggested speak to Alyson McGillivray SID about who best to approach for discussion from CC.

Really positive start to school, all children following the protocols in regards to sanitiser, good monitoring in the playgrounds. Outdoor learning and health and well-being programmes are working really well. One or two wobbles but in the main the children all seem really happy.

School is going to be used by NHS for flu immunisations during the October holidays and will use the hall.

**Co-op Funding**

The rule of no bags from home will remain in place, and the school has decided they would provide the snacks. No sugar, only fruit and whole fruit. Staff have worked with the kitchen staff to order through a supplier, prepared and distributed the snack to children on a daily basis. The children eat their fruit and there is a calmness in the school, no sugar rushes. Because they are not over eating they are hungrier at lunch time and are finishing their lunch.

Provision of fruit for all pupils currently costs £30-£50 a week. Maureen has also discussed it with Bowmore Parent Council. Suggestion of requesting Co-op funding to support this project, on an ongoing basis. Applicants don’t need to be a registered charity. Put name into hat for Co-op funding. It was noted that not all parents can provide fruit, cheaper to provide unhealthy snacks.

Bonnie volunteered to help with funding application to coop. and look into other funding available for fruit snack

So good that the food at lunch is being eaten, and it was noted that the quality of home cooked food is excellent at Port Ellen school.

Noted that the school now has ipads in place for pretty much all children in P1-4. 14 can’t access Seesaw, so there is a programme of funding that can be secured through external funding.

**AOB**

Maureen said that all those that have been tested have been very open about testing and results. The school are monitoring the health of children, particularly temp, cough and loss of smell/taste. However if a pupil had a sore head, sniffly the school wouldn’t insist on a test, it has to be accompanied by a persistent cough. The child would go to the isolation room in the school immediately. Self isolate and get tested.

One of the questions on the questionnaire is around parent and teacher consultations.

Suggested Davina is good contact for funding – Tina will message her for advice.

Maureen had permission from head of service to take a week off prior to October holidays as she worked through the easter holidays and three weeks of the school holidays.

**Date of Next Meeting**

Date of next meeting 4pm 26th October.