**Port Ellen Primary School Parent Council**

**Minutes**

**6th October 2021 6pm**

**Parent Chair Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Apologies**

Linda Kirkpatrick

**Minutes from last meeting**

**Actions from the last meeting;**

**C/F Action:** **Maureen** to meet with Larah to discuss outdoor learning.

**Date for discussion TBC**

**Action:** **Maureen** to share a copy of the School Improvement Plan to the Parent Council.

**Done**

**Action** – **Maria** to organise setting up of bank account.

**Done**

**Action – Tina / maybe Maureen** pending outcome to make contact with Charles Holyoake to brief him on project and find out about process for decision making.

**Done**

**Action - Tina** to share with members of the parent council details of the email she sent to Charles and the application link to the Coop fund.

**Done**

**Action:** **Maureen** to discuss designs with Kate when she returns to school and see if there is an email containing the tea towel design to save a design from scratch approach.

**Done**

**Action -** **Bonnie** to source quote for bottles, tea towels, mugs, fridge magnet, bags for new design to be discussed at the next meeting.

*Bonnie hasn’t completed this yet but has identified suppliers. Depends on the designs. Tea towels are circa £1.50 each, depends on colours and quantity.*

All in agreement with minutes from last meeting.

**Action - Maureen** to send dates for next few meetings to the group so they are in everyone’s diaries.

Done

**Fundraising**

**Charitable Status**

The bank account will not be updated to an online account as the bank recommended this was not best practice for a charity as only one person had control of the account.

**Co-op Funding**

We have not yet officially heard. The way the coop funding is run is that voting takes place locally in Bowmore co-op. On the day of the voting, it was looking positive as the PEPs application was at the top. We have informally have heard that it is now not looking positive for Port Ellen Parent Council. It is understood that there is a view that Port Ellen Parent Council don’t do enough for the community which is concerning. Tina has been in-touch with the Coop head office funders to find out more about how the fund is administered in terms of decision making at a local level. Both Bowmore and Port Charlotte Parent Councils have received funding in the past and there is no apparent difference in terms of what parent councils do.

Discussed how best to this and agreed best to wait until we officially hear the outcome.

If we are not successful this time then we could re-apply in April which is not too far away. We need to be really clear on what we do for the community and the school community.

Larah understands that Petra Pearce is writing an article on the Co-op Food Share programme so would be good to ensure that Port Ellen is included in this and the involvement of the Parent Council and the school in supplying fruit. Noted that Petra is involved as a local ambassador for decision making on grant funding.

Maureen asked if there were any grants that would cover fresh fruit, Larah suggested both Covid-19 Recovery Fund and Arnold Clark also have a fund – both of these could be potentially used to apply for grant to purchase fresh fruit.

In terms of the Co-op food share programme – SID were collecting from Bowmore Co-op and were getting much more than Port Ellen Co-op could supply.

**Action Larah** to follow up with SID and see if there is potential to source some food from Bowmore to share it wider across the island.

Larah said that the Cyber café was happy to collect on behalf of Port Ellen school.

**Shop in the Box**

Bonnie summarised the totals made from shop in box.

£112 this month for the Parent Council giving a total if circa £800

Donations of £1,000 have now been made to the school through the sale of Islay Prints Cards and Evie’s bracelets.

Bonnie asked with the £800 raised for the PC do we reinvest that to purchase merchandise or donate some to the school for a project or into prizes for a Christmas fundraiser.

Last year we did the virtual Advent Calendar which was very successful and raised £1,995.

Maureen had a quick chat with Catriona yesterday about a Christmas fundraiser and agreed they would discuss it properly after the holidays as there is a lot involved in getting prizes. Suggestion of a bike – order based on winners size, an apply watch.

**Action All** – Come to next meeting with ideas or offers of prizes.

**Tea Towels & Merchandise**

Kate has been co-ordinating this. Now have lots of drawings and just need to decide on the drawings and layout the design. This will be undertaken digitally this time around.

Maureen will also discuss a simpler design to work on a mug/bottle with Jo in school tomorrow.

**Latest changes/updates within the school and nursery**

There has been lots of absences as parents have been cautious in keeping children off with colds.

Going forward the school will have a focus on spelling, punctuation and grammar. The data from the school shows that this is an area for focus so the school will be driving this forward as well as problem solving in maths.

The Transformational Change Project is being driven forward by STAND – a marketing group– The transformational Change involves structural change to management in schools across Argyll. The Chief Education Officer, Louise Connor and Head of Service , Jen Crockett plan to travel out to schools and consult with HTs on it. The Timeline for the proposed changes from inception to implementation has so far omitted consultation with staff. The proposal is to reduce Head teachers from 80 to 12. Implementation due to take place from August 2023. There will be consultation with parents and it was felt we should wait until this opportunity came through and wait before we react. A lot more information is needed.

**AOCB**

Next meeting is 27th October – 3 weeks time.