**Port Ellen Primary School Parent Council**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**20th January 2022 6pm**

**Parent Chair Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Apologies**

None received

In attendance were Maria Heads, Bonnie Wood, Kate Brown, Maureen MacDonald, Grace Gibson, Tina Cunningham, Katie Bonar,

**Minutes from last meeting**

Actions from the last meeting were undertaken.

**Transformational Change Update and discussion for consultation feedback**

Alyson MacGillivray has been really good at keeping everything together. Tina and Bonnie have attended many meetings with councillors and MSP’s; Alasdair Redman, Anne Horn, Robin Currie, Jenni Minto.

We discussed the challenge of the amount of time involved and the capacity required by volunteer members of the parent council in order to read and understand everything required with a view to feeding back – the general view is that everyone is feeling overwhelmed by the quantity of work/reading to be done.

Thought perhaps we could put out another letter perhaps outlining the parent councils views. Bullet point form to help parents make decisions. The letter from Port Charlotte School to parents was thought to be a good example to be utilised for Port Ellen parents.

Maureen suggested that from experience in terms of engagement, the school gets a better response to very simple questionnaires with tickable answers.

The responses to the council are per parent so aim to do a school questionnaire and then direct parents to the Argyll and Bute council to complete the form.

**Action:** **Tina** to go back through consultation emails and see if the feedback from the Parent Council is via the same form as that on the website or a different form.

**Action:** **School Staff** will collate bullet points to share with parents along with a frequently asked questions series of text. (Katie, Kate, Maureen, Amy & Arlene). Also as part of communication invite parents to attend the meeting on 25th January.

Tina informed the group that there is a meeting on 25th January 7-8.30pm (Bonnie, Katie & Tina will attend) for all parent councils on zoom this is then followed up by a Port Ellen Parent Council question and answer session again on zoom, on 28th 12.30-2pm (Tina & Maria will attend).

Noted that the answers to the questions posed do not make for an easy response other than a positive one! Only written responses are chance to say what you think which many will not do.

Tina asked what our key points were and what our questions will be for the meeting on Friday.

Recruitment issue – why when they have had so much difficulty in the past, what makes them think that it is now going to be easy with the skill set required.

Recruitment is a key issue – Maureen explained that as she understands it the new executive head will be selected from existing heads.

We still don’t know if Islay & Jura will be a cluster or if we will be clustered with Kintyre. This could be a key question for Fridays meeting.

EIS Union will also be undertaking meetings next week.

There has been no information to show how the new model will impact on schools with shared heads.

Recruiting Head’s of School’s with a specialism is going to be a real challenge as well. The responsibilities will be disproportionate, the staff may well not have the skill set and training will be required. Executive Heads too will need extensive training.

Still really want to hear about where this model has worked well and why it is a good model to be implemented?

Discussed whether the proposal could go ahead without the consent of the Parent Councils. Thought that technically it could. Acknowledged that likely Full Council would need to approve the model. The consultation is on-going until August/September. So there is still time for the model to be moulded in a way that is more acceptable and challenges some of the Parent Council concerns.

Tina read through the points made in the email from Alyson MacGillivray which is the collated response from Parent Councils

Add to these

1. Does not make Argyll an attractive place to live and work where head teacher roles elsewhere in Scotland will offer better paid roles.
2. Project must be based on sound evidence where this has worked well before.

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

Everything at school is fine and going well. Data for attainment is up on the website and it is looking good. Maureen is really proud of the school;

Reading 18% above the local authority average.

Writing over 30% higher than local authority average

Listening & Talking 14% higher

Numeracy XX higher

Raffle – made over £3,000 which is excellent. Maureen asked if parents wanted a reimbursement for the prizes they funded.

Action: Agreed to put forward to another meeting when Maria is in attendance with finance detail.

**Action:** Katie said she would try and see and speak with parents about the consultation and as prospective member of the parent council.

**Confirmation off future dates**

AGM 17th February 6.00pm agreed add on an extra meeting after AGM on Transformational Change update.

**AOCB**

Grace asked if Platinum Jubilee in June could be added to the agenda for future meeting for an event at the school e.g. tea party.