

Woodlands Primary School Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 1st June 2021 @ 7:30pm – Online via Teams.

1. Welcome and attendance

Welcome by the Chair Kim Thorne

Present

- Kim Thorne (KT) Chair
- Louise Kelly (LK) Treasurer (part meeting)
- Jenny Grant (JG) Secretary
- Suzanne Smith (SS) Principal
- Judith Connor (JC) Vice Principal
- Bea Finlayson (BF)
- Steph Mann (SM)
- Audrey Gregory (AG)

Apologies from Sophie Thompson (ST), Laura Ferguson (LF) and Jen Kennedy (JK)

2. Previous minutes

Previous minutes (19th January 2021) – need to change the Chromebook target to £3800 – Action JG.

Minutes from 24th April 2021 approved by BF and seconded by AG.

3. Vice Chair and Succession planning

Audrey Gregory has agreed to stand as Vic Chair and was nominated as Vice Chair by JG and seconded by BF. AG duly elected as Vice Chair.

KT keen to ensure we have planned for next year as KT (Chair), JG (secretary) and SM will be standing down as their children will be leaving the school. Need to think about how better to recruit more parents. KT drafted a letter to go out to new parents. Worth making parents aware that PC is struggling for members and highlight what PC has done for the school and what will happen if there is not enough support for PC. Suggestions included: Cheese and wine evening; stall in school grounds to meet new parents; meet and greet. People generally stay on PC for a long time so obviously get something out of it, just need to work out how to communicate this to new parents.

4. Meetings for 2021/22

Meetings will likely follow the standard pattern of 1 per term and extra if needed for events. Tuesday evenings suit most. Will continue on Teams until the school is accepting lets.

Action KT: Confirm meeting dates for next session.

5. Homework

The levels of homework given out vary between classes. There are lots of different views from parents, with some welcoming homework and others not. The school policy is that homework is allocated on a Monday and returned on a Thursday but no pressure to complete.

Since lockdown, some classes are using Seesaw to share their learning. Parents generally seem to welcome more sharing of learning. Some classes and teachers could potentially use Seesaw more to share learning. School considering how the learning logs could be shared.

School planning to revisit homework policy in light of covid and electronic learning and identify the best way forward. Homework likely to remain optional.

6. Fundraising update

BF has completed her 9th half marathon - a massive well done from all PC members. KT hasn't reduced the target on the fundraising page as we need to keep the page active until the last half marathon is complete. We would like to make a celebration of the last half marathon, maybe BF could finish at school and the children cheer her on. Likely to be w/c 16th August.

BF has applied for Co-op funding and looking at other grant options.

7. Outdoor classroom

SS has met with kids club and they are keen to share the outdoor classroom. They have no funding to contribute but they will look at grants to cover their contribution. SS also met with the project manager for Angus Council and discussed the plans. Need to consider the maintenance of the building, likely to be done by Robertsons. Need further work to explore the maintenance costs and aftercare and further discussions with kids clubs.

The current outdoor classroom is not as accessible as the school would like due to the road. Moving it is not feasible. The proposed new space would be used as a nurture space, not in any way to solve current capacity issues. The school is keen to involve the children in the project and will talk to them prior to it being built.

BF thinks we should be able to attract grant support for the project as it ticks lots of boxes, mental health, STEM, renewables etc etc.

8. P7 events

There are some events arranged for p7s to try to make their last week memorable. They are going to a climbing centre and having an awards ceremony for the last day. They have a red carpet, balloon entrance, breakfast buffet and awards and photos.

9. Transition and Covid Update

The p7s have not been about to do the usual transition to High School. They did manage a half day Friday. The move up morning for other years is unable to go ahead as normal but the school are trying to ensure each class has an opportunity to meet their new teacher.

New class teachers will be confirmed next week by letters to parents.

10. The Happy Newspaper

JC got some free copies and had really good feedback on it. Costs are £1 per copy, for a minimum of 10 copies. Issued ever quarter. PC agreed to pay for it (as long as it doesn't have religious content).

11. Standards and Quality report and school improvement plan

There is quality assurance carried out every year and assessments are used to inform the plan and decide where the focus should be. The focus will be on reading next year. Attainment is very high at Woodlands but there is going to be a focus on comprehension and spelling. The school is considering if phonics is the best approach. The Sound Reading System is being considered and 5 staff are receiving training in this approach. It will be introduced in p1-3 initially and one upper school class. Woodlands are linking with another 2 schools for feedback. There seems to be a positive impact on spelling. School considering how best to share this information with parents.

School improvement plan includes:

- Reading and spelling
- Unlocking keys to comprehension
- Outdoor space
- Clicker tool to access writing
- Tool for dyslexia – to help with reading.

It will be shared with parents.

12. AOB

School garden is looking lovely with new planters and the mindfulness area.

Questions about access points and cycle provision – will consider what guidance is and how cycle provision can be covered.