**Gelston Primary School Parent Council Minutes**

**Wednesday 9th November 2022 7:30pm**

Welcome/Apologies

Present: Mary Cruickshanks, Pam Shuttleworth, Emma Howard, Abbie Robertson, Kay Davies.

Apologies: Justine Hunter-Brown

Minutes Reviewed

Previous minutes reviewed and agreed as an accurate record of previous meeting

Larann Foss – Flow charts with various steps to follow. Pam to put together a plan for Larann to assess and give us a better idea of planning permission/design/maintenance etc.

Whatsapp banking policy – policy agreed – Kay to sign the banking procedure and action online banking.

Chair person report

Huge thank you to everyone in making our Christmas fundraiser a huge success. Once all of our expenses were taken into account the grand total was £855.34!! (£93.54 Child Art, £130 Lamb, £631.80 raffle)

Nursing review:

Focus on three main areas

* Vulnerable children and families
* Mental Health & Wellbeing
* Risk Taking behaviours

They are based in four localities

* The Willows , Dumfries
* The Oak Tree, Stranraer
* Lockerbie Health Centre
* Gardenhill Health Centre

School nurses currently have two secondary schools and the cluster primaries which they support

Team is being built with Scottish Government funded support between 2020 & 2023

Priority Pathways for referral

* Emotional health and wellbeing
* Child Protection
* Domestic Abuse
* Looked after children
* Homelessness
* Transitions
* Young Carers
* Substance misuse
* Sexual health and wellbeing
* Youth Justice

Referral by either

* Professionals (Teachers, GP’s, Health & social care staff)
  + - Via email to single point of contact
* Self referral – Parents or carers/Young people
  + - 07795291296

Examples of what School Nurse can help with

* Any identified wellbeing needs (SHANARRI)
* Low level anxiety/low mood/emotional regulation
* Self Esteem and confidence
* Behavioural Issues
* Sleep issues
* Point of access(universally available in schools) where unsure which specialist service is needed

Extra Duties

* P1 child health reviews- weight/height measurements
* Advice via self referral line
* May be part of a Child Protection Plan
* May be part of Child’s plan meeting
* Participation in school events
* Looked After Children annual health assessments

Summary of what DGPCF activities being carried out

* List of changes/updates to school kitchens in terms of sustainability & recycling
* ‘plastic’ cutlery in dining rooms is actually ‘vegeware’ which is biodegradable and compostable
* Stainless steel cutlery iis being reintroduced to dining rooms
* Polystyrene containers have been reduced, now using thick paper type product
* Plastic coffee stirrers have gone
* Recycling bins the same as the ones we have at home are now being distributed to schools – rolling out to all rural schools first, then urban primaries and then secondaries, and are being received positively, children using them the same as they do at home
* Lots of positive changes so far , more to come
* Rescheduled SQA questions as more info on appeals procedures

No one attended the previous session - shared on our page in case of older siblings in some of our families

10th March 7pm via zoom – shared info on our facebook page for anyone interested- cancelled due to illness

* Parent Council Chairs took part in a survey at the beginning of the year around training, engagement & support. The action plan to emerge as a result of the survey is
* Assess best time of year to hold information sessions for new members as poll was taken of AGM months
* Look to identify other methods of engagement with feeder nurseries
* Organise Connect training where there is an identified need
* Ensure all materials are formatted or greater accessibility
* Survey format will change to include text boxes for more detailed feedback

DYW- Dumfries & Galloway Developing Young Work force.

* Main points – D&G have 40% of the workforce are 5-10 years away from retirement.
* NHS needs entire population of school leavers within D&G just to stand still
* Its a programme to inspire the young people & show them whats out there for them in terms of career options.
* You Tube Channel with lots of info on careers
* Recruitment for DGPCF as well as National Parent Forum
* Table of restrictions in terms of what has been removed and what is being retained
* How we engage with new/ parents
* Could we put together a page for the welcome pack? Can we support the school improvement plan?
* Mel (DGPCF rep)meeting with Gillian Brydson Director of Skills,Learning & Education on 19th May 2022 to ensure Parent Council views and voices are heard.
* Next DGPCF meeting is 25th May 2022 – guest speaker is Lesley Sloan (Young Person’s Guarantee Partnerships Officer/Employability and Skills, D&G Council) – Any questions you’d like me to as then drop me an email.

Fundraising update

Regionwide Community fund again- this time around we might have more success as we have already gained some momentum in terms of raising some of the capitol ourselves and have other investors.

The deadline for applications is 22nd April 2022.

Pam to submit application and feedback at next meeting

£855.34 was raised from Christmas raffle etc.

Potential to apply to the Pate Factory in Kirkcudbright to receive funding for the Outdoor Classroom/Community Hub - Steven (Niall’s Dad) putting our name forward.

Prior to the pandemic Gelston received £400 to be spent on improving playground for the infant class- this could be added to the classroom fund if necessary

The possibility of having the Fete this year was brought up but as it is dependent on the restrictions allowing us have the go ahead it was felt that the time scale wouldn’t allow for enough time to adequately organise the event.

Head Teacher Report

Christmas raffle went really well. Thank you to all parents who contributed.

Cross partnership Christmas video and nativity by the infants - brilliant.

End of January school was hit by Covid but remained open.

P6/7 Lockerbie Manor trip (rescheduled from beginning of Feb) was a great success.

World Book Day 3rd March, children enjoyed dressing up.

Feis Rois has been coming in to do music with the children.

School improvement plan due in May 2022

School priorities from 2021/2022 were:

* Develop Numeracy and Maths curricular programmes
* Moderation in Numeracy and Maths to ensure CDHS Cluster teachers have a shared understanding of the standard expected.
* HWB and nurture across Cluster schools

Children completed assessments:

Numeracy – P3’s are most impacted by Covid closures, but on track to achieve levels by P4.

Covid recovery teacher will be focusing on supporting P7’s writing.

The school found that the results accurately reflected Gelston children.

Staffing

Miss Reid returned in January after being absent in Term 2. Mrs Maxwell retired in December and Mrs Marscheider was appointed as Acting Principal Teacher on a Friday. She was required to go back to teaching her P1/2 class at Crossmichael on a full time basis.

Miss Holman will now be teaching P4-7 on a Friday at Gelston but not as the Principal Teacher.

Mary will be at Gelston on a Friday as there is no Principal Teacher to be appointed for the remainder of this session.

Treasurer Report

Two payments from council have been made to us:

6th Dec - £169.20

15th Feb - £168.80

Pam to ask Vanessa regarding double payment – feedback to Kay to aid the submission of the annual returns.

AOCB

Pam mentioned that the boundary fence is broken at road side (Douglas Crescent) The children can easily climb through the gap – Mary to look into this.

Pam raised the subject of auditing the Parent Council accounts. It was suggested at the last DGPC meeting in March that perhaps PC’s within the cluster could audit each other accounts annually if that made the process a little easier. After discussing this it was established that both Crossmichael and Gelston have things in place but will be noted that it’s a possibility should anything change in the future.

Next Meeting

TBC.