REPHAD PARENT COUNCIL AGM 2020 held on Thursday 18th March over Zoom at 7pm.

Present- Ruth-Anne Henderson (Chairperson), Angela Milligan (Treasurer), Jennifer Leek (Assistant Treasurer), Lorna Burns, Diane McClintock (Fundraising Sub-Committee), Paula Erskine, Gavin Lee (Parent Members), Karen Logue (Head Teacher), Moira Baird (Depute Head Teacher), Amy Bingham, Lorna Hamilton, Kirsty Teasdale (Teacher Representatives), Councillor Ros Surtees, Natalie Lisi, Sharon Edgar, Rachel and Stuart Fitton, Jenny Gregg and Lorna McLean (Parent Forum Members)

Apologies- Councillor Willie Scobie, Silvana Watson, Kaye Brown, Morag Irons, Magda Wasielewska

1, Welcome

Ruth-Anne welcomed everybody and thanked them for attending, commenting that it was nice to see so many new faces.

2, Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes had previously been circulated to all members. The minutes were proposed by Lorna Burns and seconded by Jennifer Leek.

3, Matters arising from the minute

Unfortunately, a Cyber Resilience and Internet Safety Workshop that Jennifer and Ruth-Anne were to be attending was cancelled due to the Coronavirus. Hopefully this will be rescheduled.

4, Constitution

A copy of the amended Constitution had previously been circulated to all members of the Parent Council and Parent Forum. Paula Erskine proposed the adoption of the amended Constitution and Diane McClintock seconded.

5, Annual Reports

**Chair** – Ruth-Anne outlined the meetings held in the past year, commenting that her first year as chair had been eventful, advising she was successful in setting up a Parent Council email address (rephadparentcouncil@outlook.com). She thanked current parent members for their contributions, Penny McGeoch for her time as Clerk, Alastair Young for his guidance when HT, Moira Baird for her time taking over as Acting Head Teacher (for which she was presented with a bunch of flowers and a box of chocolates from Parent Council members), Lorna Hamilton, Acting Depute and Morag Irons as Acting PT. She outlined the need for the Constitution to be redrafted and amended and her involvement in the appointing of new Head Teacher Karen Logue. (Full report available upon request)

**Treasurer** - Angela explained the parent council have missed out on 3-4 years of payments from Dumfries and Galloway Council due to end of year statements not being submitted. There has been a delay with changing signatories, on the bank’s part, and Coronavirus lockdown caused more delays. This is now underway. Signatories will be A Milligan (Treasurer), J Leek (Assistant Treasurer) and R A Henderson (Chair). Angela can now access old statements and has been able to approve accounts for last year 2018-19 and this year 2019-20 which have been prepared by Montpelier (and are available upon request). On the 31st March 2020 the balance of the bank account stands at £2523. Angela thanked L Burns for her help as previous Assistant Treasurer and M Baird for her assistance and advice. (Full report available upon request)

Ruth-Anne thanked Angela for her sterling work, suggesting that the role of Treasurer was perhaps more of an undertaking than Angela had at first thought but that she was doing an excellent job. Jennifer was also thanked for her continuing role as Assistant Treasurer.

**Fundraising Sub-Committee** – Lorna advised that Christmas parties came in on budget. Thanks to Sandra in the kitchen and the other parents who helped. The Christmas Winter Wonderland was well received and a successful event, Santa’s grotto being popular as always. Easter Treats were distributed before school closure. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 situation the following fundraising activities that were scheduled were unable to go ahead: Bingo night; Easter discos; Fun night. (Full report available upon request.) Lorna expressed her disappointment that her final year was marred by the current lockdown situation but wished the Rephad Community best wishes for the future and hopefully a return to normality soon. Diane went on to reiterate Lorna’s thanks by sharing her appreciation of the whole school staff and pupils whom she had worked with over her years as co-ordinator of the FSC, as well as her team of parents who she very much enjoyed working with.

Ruth-Anne explained this was Lorna and Diane’s last year with Parent Council and thanked them for their dedication and service. Lorna and Diane were presented with a thank you gift each from the Parent Council. Ruth-Anne also noted that a large number of the Fundraising Sub-Committee were current P7 parents who would be leaving and shared her gratitude for their hard work and support over the years.

**Acting Head Teacher** – Moira gave a report on the events of the school year, detailing: staffing; the success of the sponsored family event, her own participation in the teacher exchange program with a teacher from Nancy-Metz in France; the Collaborative review undertaken by the Local Authority; Moira taking over from Alastair Young as Acting Head Teacher; Nursery Staffing and their inspection by Care Inspectorate; training undertaken by school staff and the consequential implementation of that training; the successful use of online learning throughout lockdown, “school, but done differently” and a new era beginning in Mrs Karen Logue taking up the post as Head Teacher. She highlighted the enthusiasm and commitment of all staff and finished by acknowledging the support which parents offer the school, particularly thanking those individuals involved in the Fundraising Sub-Committee who will be leaving Rephad. (Full report available on request.)

Ruth-Anne thanked Moira and the whole school staff for their care and dedication in looking after and teaching Rephad’s children to the best of their ability, before lockdown and throughout it.

6, Introduction to Mrs Karen Logue, Head Teacher

Ruth-Anne welcomed Karen and invited her to say a few words.

Karen began by thanking the Parent Council for their support during recruitment. She also thanked Moira Baird, Lorna Hamilton and Morag Irons for supporting the school and Karen’s transition. Karen advised she has been meeting with staff on a 1:1 basis online and interacting with children over Microsoft Teams. She thanked Ellen Johnstone and Lesley Little for looking after the hens and the parents for what they have done during lockdown. She advised they are working on a model for the return to school in August but are still awaiting final guidance from the Authority. Family groupings will be shared when possible. Risk assessments are in place and staff are considering all ways in which to make the environment safe but also positive and welcoming. Classrooms will be videoed, and these videos sent out prior to children’s return. Karen explained Staffing was almost set and this information would be put out to parents hopefully next week. She reiterated the community spirit of Rephad and told how she was excited to be meeting everyone and to be moving on, continuing to give staff and children reassurance and stability.

7, New Members

Ruth-Anne, again, thanked the new faces for joining the AGM. Some have intimated their interest in joining the council as parent members and one as Clerk. This will be revisited at our next ordinary meeting in September, when new members and role bearers can be voted on.

8, Date of next meeting

Thursday 10th September 2020. Venue tbc.

9, AOCB

Gavin asked if families of children would be kept together upon return in August. Karen explained that they would be kept to the same day but perhaps not same start/finish time due to crossovers in corridors. Families in Rephad were being grouped, but not those in secondary as the Academy have a different return model. Nursery model is still to be confirmed.

Gavin also asked when parents would know their teacher for next session. Karen answered next week, possibly the following but certainly before the school holidays.

Ruth-Anne advised that she had been given permission by the rest of the Parent Council members, Mrs Logue and Mrs Baird to set up a Facebook group for Rephad Parent Council. This is a private group for parents and carers of Rephad children only. Ruth-Anne has been using it so far to intimate the AGM and to share information and newsletters from D & G Council, Education Scotland, the National Parent Forum for Scotland and the Scottish Government’s Parentzone. For those parents not on FB, the same information can be shared through the school app.

Meeting closed 8:05pm