

## Parent Council Minutes – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 6 – 7.30pm

Present: Greg Black, Krystin Black, Steve Beattie, Lynne Shaw, Lee Syme, Daryll Moore, Hayley Elliot, Danielle McNulty, Ashley Weir, Emma Herries

Apologies: Jillian Hamilton, Rosi McQuarrie-Parks, Kirsty Pearson, David Robertson, Kerry O'Neill, Jim Dempster

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson Greg Black welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared the agenda with everyone.

### 2. Previous minutes

Minutes from the last meeting (31/01/23) were circulated with the group. These were proposed by Daryll Moore as accurate and seconded by Danielle McNulty.

### 3. Clerk's Report

Correspondence received

- Small lottery license – The application for a small lottery license was accepted and we received confirmation of this by email. This cost £40 for the initial fee and will cost £20 every year thereafter.
- School Estate Consultation – An email was received inviting the Chairperson of Sanquhar Primary Parent Council to a School Estate Consultation. Greg Black attended this along with Steve Beattie. They gave feedback from the consultation later in the meeting.
- Road safety around Sanquhar Primary – An email was received from Jim Dempster, who had met with Mr. Beattie, regarding the poor condition of the road outside the school. He stated that it is a private road and is the responsibility of the Education Department to maintain it. Mr. Beattie stated that the roads department would take over responsibility for the road once it is up to standard. Additionally, concerns were raised over unauthorized vehicles driving over the footpath leading towards the school. Larann Foss (School's Property Manager for D&G) has been made aware of these issues.

### 4. Treasurer's Report

Accounts from 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2023			
		Income	Outgoing
Bank Balance b/f		£3017.38	
Quarterly Interest		£4.68	
Total Income		£366.87	
			£404.16
		<b>£3388.93</b>	<b>£404.16</b>
Balance Remaining (Petty Cash and Bank)		<b>£2984.77</b>	
<b>Valentine's Disco</b>		£197.85	

(less materials: balloons, lights, food, juice etc)			£54.08
			£61.99
			£11.99
			£16.27
DJ Billy – Valentine’s Disco DJ			£150.00
<b>Thornhill Rotary Club Cheque – to purchase Easter eggs</b>		£50.00	
(funds from Thornhill Rotary to purchase eggs)			£50.00
(less late receipt for Valentine’s goods)			£19.83
<b>Beetle Drive</b>		£119.02	
(less Parent Council License (for raffles etc)			£40.00
		<b>£366.87</b>	<b>£404.16</b>
		£50.00	
Petty Cash as at 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2023		£287.99	
Bank Balance as at 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2023		£2646.78	
Total		£2984.77	

## 5. Head Teacher’s Report

### *Staff Changes*

- Mrs. Hastie has been asked to support Kelloholm Primary in an Acting Head teacher role until they appoint another Head teacher. Mr. Beattie will oversee this and support Mrs. Hastie in this role. Notes of interest for Mrs. Hastie’s job are to be in by Friday and interviews for this will take place next week.
- Mrs. Hastie and Miss. Moore are currently covering Mr. Kilpatrick’s paternity leave and cover has been arranged for Mrs. McNay’s upcoming maternity leave.
- A new Learning Assistant, Emma O’Neill, has been appointed and will be working full time. Jordan McLeod and Sam I’Anson will also be continuing in their Learning Assistant roles.
- Kitty Houston has been working in P2 and will be moving to P7 based on a priority of needs.

### *Education Officer*

Andrea McFarlane, the new Education Officer for Sanquhar Primary visited and is happy with how things are going. She wanted to see a bigger focus on attainment.

### *Disruptions*

A pay agreement is now in place for teachers therefore there will be no more strikes.

### *Staffing*

Parents will receive reports on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and will be notified of who their child’s teacher will be for the following academic year.

### *Attendance*

Attendance at Sanquhar Primary is very good overall. Letters addressing late coming went out before Easter.

### *Learning Centre facility access improvements*

Larann Foss visited the school to discuss and arrange for a handrail to be removed, allowing access for the Learning Centre pupils to the nursery garden. Ashley stated that many of the pupils are keen to use the outside space more. This improvement will allow children in the learning centre to interact with other children and promote inclusion.

### *Launch of values*

The Sanquhar Primary values were launched last term (REACH graphic) and staff have been embedding this with pupils. The pupil council also took the success criteria from this and made it more pupil friendly.

### *Curriculum Rationale*

Mr. Beattie stated that the curriculum will be reviewed, and he would like staff, pupils and parents to be part of this. Mr. Beattie stated that he was interested in having a careers day and would like to gather information on parents' skills and any expertise they could offer the school. He stated that he would like a small group from the Parent Council to work on developing the curriculum. Krystin, Greg, Lynne, Lee, Emma, Danielle and Hayley expressed that they would be happy to be part of this group.

**ACTION** – Those who expressed interest in the curriculum development group to arrange a meeting.

### *School Improvement Plan 23/24*

Mr. Beattie stated that the three priorities for the school improvement plan next session would be Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing and Numeracy.

### *Successes*

- The school football team will play a match against Wallace Hall. Everyone thought this was a positive step forward for the team.
- The athletics team have done well throughout the year and have enjoyed taking part in events.
- Some pupils have been undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- The school has achieved the Sports Scotland Bronze Award.
- Many pupils achieved success in the poetry/music festival and members of the group commented on how well pupils conducted themselves and supported each other during these events.
- Matilda was a success and pupils will have the opportunity to perform in another show in two years time.
- The school has nearly achieved the silver award for Rights Respecting Schools.
- The Early Learning and Childcare staff have been part of cluster meetings where they have shared good practice.

### *Upcoming events*

- Sanquhar Primary is one of four schools supporting the 'Biosphere Project', which looks at how people look after the world around them.

- There will be a Coronation garden party on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 12.30pm. Parents will be invited and there will be food, as well as the brass band playing.
- P7s will go on their trip to Lockerbie Manor this term.
- P4-P6 Girls will have the opportunity to be part of the 'Girls on Track' event which aims to give girls an insight into motorsport and encourage them into careers relating to this.
- Mrs McNay will go on maternity leave on 19<sup>th</sup> May and a plan is in place to cover her post.
- The school fete will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

## 6. Matters Arising

### *Hydrotherapy pool update*

The pool has been fixed and a makeshift flue had to be created. There has been an issue with ordering CO2 as it has changed from cannisters to tanks but this has now been resolved and Mr. Beattie signed off on an order today for CO2, therefore the pool should be up and running very soon.

### *Funding for sensory equipment*

Krystin stated that she had filled in an application to Whiteside Hill Wind Farms for funding for a new sensory room. This had then been passed on to Ashley and Mr. Beattie to add further information, using their insight and expertise. Krystin also stated that this would be passed onto Daryl to look over from a community service provider perspective, once finalized.

**ACTION** – Krystin to finalize application and pass onto Daryl. Application to be submitted by 28<sup>th</sup> April 23.

### *Easy Fundraising account*

Krystin has set up an easy fundraising account for the Parent Council which generates donations for the school when online shopping through the easyfundraising site.

**ACTION** - Krystin stated that she would promote this on the school Facebook page and a short video on how to use the site.

### *Feedback from D&G School Estates Meeting*

Greg and Mr. Beattie attended the school estates consultation at Sanquhar Academy, along with the Headteachers of both Kelloholm Primary and Sanquhar Academy and some of their Parent Council representatives. The meeting highlighted that changes to the school estate in D&G would need to happen in the future as there are currently too many schools and buildings that are too big for the declining school roles in the region.

Concerns were expressed at the meeting about what this would mean for the future of the schools in our area, particularly Sanquhar Academy, as it has a low school role for the size of the building and it is not accessible for wheelchair users.

Those leading the consultation indicated that they were in the very early stages of this process and that no decisions had been made regarding the future of the regions' schools. A questionnaire had been sent out to those who attended the meeting and Greg stated that Krystin would send this out to the Parent Council members to get their thoughts on how they think it should be answered, as he thought that the questions were very leading. Those who

attended the meeting expressed to the Council representatives that they would like a consultation where members of the community could attend.

The Parent Council members agreed that this is an important issue that they should keep an eye on as it will affect many Sanquhar Primary pupils who plan to move up to Sanquhar Academy beyond P7.

**ACTION** – Krystin to send out questionnaire to Parent Council members to gather thoughts on how we should respond.

## **7. Social and Fund-raising sub-group update**

The Valentine's Disco and Beetle Drive were a success, and the events were enjoyed by both pupils and parents.

Emma stated that they would like to buy a popcorn machine for events. Some members of the Parent Council asked where it would be stored and who would clean it after events etc. Emma also wanted to find out more about the training required to drive the community minibus so that this could be utilized by the school more often. Daryl stated that there is a Whiteside Hill Training fund which may cover some/all of the cost of this.

Emma stated that she would arrange a separate meeting to help plan the upcoming Summer Fete. Daryl stated that there is also a covid recovery fund which the Parent Council could maybe apply for to help towards costs of this event, as the fund is to encourage community members to come together after covid.

**ACTION** – Emma will arrange a separate meeting to help plan the Summer Fete. Krystin stated that she would send the link to the Connect training webinar recording on 'Organizing social and fundraising events' to the members of the sub-group.

## **8. AOB**

Krystin stated that with the success of the school's athletics team this year, she would be keen to see if a Junior Parkrun event could be held in Sanquhar at the running track. This is usually run on a Saturday or Sunday morning and provides an opportunity for kids aged between 4-14 years old to run a timed 2k and improve on their performance each week.

**ACTION** – Greg stated that he would raise this at the Community Council meeting.

Greg Black thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was closed at 8.20pm.