

## **Parent Council Minutes – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023 6 – 7.30pm**

Present: Greg Black, Krystin Black, Steve Beattie, Lee Syme, Danielle McNulty, Ashley Weir, Emma Herries, Rosi McQuarrie-Parks, David Robertson, Gayle Zaidi, Kerry O'Neill

Apologies: Jillian Hamilton, Lynne Shaw, Daryl Moore

### **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 (17/04/23) were circulated with the group. These were proposed by L Syme as accurate and seconded by A Weir.

### **3. Clerk's Report**

- The Parent Council should be notified by 28<sup>th</sup> June as to whether the funding application for the sensory room has been accepted. K Black will notify everyone once any information comes through.
- K Black will produce a short video on how to use Easyfundraising for the school community.
- A contribution for petrol has still to be given to the man who came to the Summer Fete with the Bee Display.

### **4. Treasurer's Report**

Not submitted at this meeting.

### **5. Chair's Report**

G Black congratulated everyone on the success of the Summer Fete and thanked everyone for their help in making it happen. He suggested that it would be a good idea to post on the school Facebook page what the Parent Council funds generated for.

G Black stated that he had priced water bottles for every pupil in the school. The group suggested that these could be personalized. A discussion took place about whether these should stay in school or be sent home, as there is the issue of cleaning the bottles.

G Black stated that there are upcoming consultations on behaviour and the school estate and encouraged everyone to participate in these.

### **6. Head Teacher's Report**

Mr Beattie stated that he expects the school will be inspected next session. He recognized that there are improvements to be made but feels that the school is on the right trajectory.

#### *Success*

Mr Beattie stated that Matilda was a great success and thanked Mrs Hastie and all involved with the show.

There were many achievements in Burn's Poetry competitions and Mr Beattie thanked Lynne Forsyth for working with the pupils. He also congratulated Sophie Robertson and Keegan Shaw who went on to represent Dumfries and Galloway in the National competition. There have also been successes in Sports Clubs within the school such as the school football team and the athletics team.

#### *Attainment*

Mr Beattie stated that they had been aiming for 70% of the school achieving on or above the national average and said that school had achieved well above that figure. He is now aiming to achieve between 85-86% achieving on or above the national average but they are not quite there yet. This is based on skills in reading, writing, talking, listening and numeracy.

#### *Stay and Play*

This may change. A few parents may be invited in at time in order that parents can view and engage in their child's learning experience.

#### *Staff Changes*

Miss Laird, a probationary teacher, will now be teaching P1 with Mrs Burgess.

Mrs Hastie will be back in August and Ms Forsyth will return to Closeburn Primary.

Miss Carter will be back from maternity leave in August and will be teaching P2 alongside Miss Thomas.

Rachel Williams is the new Education Officer for the school. The group expressed concern as this is now the 6<sup>th</sup> Education Officer the school has had in a short period of time. The group decided to write a letter to the Authority regarding this.

#### *Disruptions*

Mr Beattie stated that the allocated Learning Assistant hours for the school were much less than expected. The school will get to keep all the permanent staff but will have to use PEF funding for some. He stated that this is tough on teachers and pupils as there is not enough support.

#### *School Improvement Priorities*

Mr Beattie stated that the two main priorities for next session would be:

The Curriculum

Health and Wellbeing

He said that he was keen to update the learning and teaching policy. He also wants a parent curriculum group formed, led by the Parent Council, to give views on the types of learning experiences we want the pupils to have.

#### *Expenditure*

Mr Beattie stated that there was not a lot of money in the budget. He said that he was keen to get a DSM group up and running.

#### *Upcoming Events*

A water fun day has been arranged for the Wednesday of the last week.

Mr Beattie stated that he would like to have a calendar of events that run throughout the year e.g. World Book Day, British Science Week.

Crochet club has been a success.

Mr Beattie wanted to get a STEM club up and running. G Black and K Black stated that they could assist with this.

Mr Beattie also wanted to run a careers event.

## **7. AOB**

Mr Beattie said that the Parent Council could store items in the storage container in the playground if we purchased plastic tubs to keep the items in.

A concern was raised about the appearance of the P6/7 area due to rubbish lying in that area. Mr Beattie stated that there is a plan for this.

A further concern was raised about the appearance of the willow dome area. Mr Beattie stated that this needs careful consideration as it's purpose is for biodiversity.

The group discussed the lack of shade in the playground being a issue in the sunny weather.

Parking is also still an issue with some parents and visitors parking on the double yellow lines.

E Herries suggested the Reading Eggs app as a good resource for the school. Mr Beattie said that he would look into this.

Mr Beattie stated that a headset with microphones would be a good resource to have so that pupils could record their own learning more clearly.

A Weir stated that the hydropool was used for the first time on Friday. The pupils who used the repaired facility had a great experience and A Weir explained how beneficial this was to them.

Greg Black thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was closed at 8.30pm.