NETHER ROBERTLAND PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 18th JANUARY 2023 AT 7.15PM

PRESENT: Mary Menzies, Evelyn Black, Alexandra Goldie, Cathy Hill, Helen Ward, Ashley Newton, Janice Thompson, Jennifer Butler, Rebecca Cunningham, Loree Thomson, Natalie McMaster

IN ATTENDANCE: Jackie Beveridge, Cllr Stephen Canning

APOLOGIES: Hayley King, Joanna Deeks-Nisbet, Lauren Hussain, Stacey Todd, Vicky Young, Lynne Bicket, Lisa Davidson, Kyla Richardson

The meeting opened at 7.15.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Proposed by Cathy Hill and seconded by Loree Thomson.

PA UPDATE: It was confirmed that the following sums of money had been raised – Breakfast £1900, Christmas Cards £458.87 and Pupil Shopping £242.

There is to be a disco on 30th March. The next meeting of the PA will be on 6th February in the Millhouse Hotel. The PA have agreed to buy P7 Hoodies. With regard to PA membership, some year groups are lighter on helpers. It was agreed that more info should be put on the APP nearer events to encourage more help from a wider base of parents. In relation to PC meetings it was pointed out that Tuesdays don’t always work. It was agreed that alternate dates would be used, eg Mondays and Wednesdays.

HT UPDATE: Mrs Beveridge gave a staffing update – CA post for 16.5 hours was advertised – temporary post to October. Interviews this week. Ms Fyvie is no longer with us, she was a great addition to the school but has now moved on to other posts. Mrs Beveridge advised that the PA had paid £1400 for the panto buses and that the school had helped pay for some of the tickets through various funds. Mrs Beveridge told the PC that the authority are offering free toast to children from 8.20am – 8.50am. The logistics of this need to be ironed out. It will be made clear that there will be no supervision of this. All comms regarding this will be issued in the next week or so. With regard to the Phase 3 upgrade there is to be a meeting next week to get the council to agree to initial plans. More electrical points and data points are on the agenda. With regard to the ECC, Simon Bell has advised that refurbishment of the ECC is not viable. The PC said that they disagreed with this decision as it is a great space. Parents discussed how to write and collaborate about this, giving reasons and ideas of why this building should be kept and not demolished. As parents felt really strongly about this it was agreed a letter should be send to Simon Bell to open discussions. The existing school APP is not be renewed when contract finishes at the end of March. There was a discussion around the difficulties of the school holding virtual meetings on a platform as access to the school used platforms are limited to council employees. This is being looked into by the school.

AOCB: Mrs Thomson asked if all children got changed in the classroom. Mrs Beveridge confirmed that in the ‘wee end’ children do get changed in the classroom. This year changing rooms are being used by older children at the ‘big end’. Time and space are issues. Mrs Beveridge assured parents that if any child felt uncomfortable then they should come to staff and provisions would be made to allow the child to change more privately. It was also suggested that it be put on the app that on PE days children could wear PE ‘easy’ clothing, eg polo shirts instead of shirt and tie. One parent suggested that girls wore shorts over their tights and under their skirts. Mrs Butler then brought up that some P1 parents were concerned over the movement of children between Miss Whiteford and Mrs Henderson’s class. Jackie confirmed that both P1 classes have relevant support. Miss Whiteford is at capacity so there will be no more movement now. Again reassurance was given that there was a high level of support across these classes. Jackie reminded parents that if anyone has any specific concerns, they should come and share these with her. Mrs Black commented on Mr Howie’s Harry Potter Day and how fabulous it was. She also commented that the Panto was also fabulous and how much her children had enjoyed it. Mrs Ward raised concerns about crossing the road at Cutsburn/Pokelly Place and also the volume of traffic. It was agreed that the JRSO’s and PC would consider this problem again as it had been looked at previously and as there is a safe route through the underpass, no further action was taken. There was positive feedback on the Christmas concert from parents who were present. It was noted that a large number of children did not return for the later performance. It was agreed that the school would look at how they might do this different next time.

Meeting finished just before 9.00pm.