

Uplawmoor Parent Council Minutes

Date: 1st March 2021

Location: Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Parents: Claire McKellar (chair), Emma Green, Jill Skelton, Toni Leggat, Mary Anne Gorman, Lorna Street, Jacqueline Chinchin, Isla Goldie

School staff: Miss Dunn (HT), Mrs McKay

Apologies: Allison McKenzie

Previous Minutes

Previous minutes approved by all.

Miss Dunn – Head Teachers Report

Miss Dunn wanted to offer thanks for her welcome to Uplawmoor and the support during her time in the school.

Staffing: Miss Dunn has started post in Carlibar Primary and Mrs McKay will return to the post of Uplawmoor HT on 8th March.

The P1-3 return to school has gone well. P4-7 are still learning through remote learning. Following the full return to school there will be some observations to determine where the children are and any support that may be needed.

P7 transition - Miss Dunn advised that the school are still working with cluster colleagues and activities will be done virtually during a cluster week. P7 teachers are already discussing this within a cluster team.

Year book – Miss Turnbull is working with Mrs Harvey for a virtual yearbook. The leaving ceremony may be held inside and videoed. Eastwood High School have virtual parents meetings planned.

Parent Council Responsibilities

A parent raised an issue which initiated a discussion around the role of the parent council. The issue was deemed by some members to be sensitive and not within the remit of the Parent Council. CM has reviewed the official roles of the parent council and feels that we should identify and represent all views of parents.

JD suggested that the role of the PC could facilitate the relationship between the parent and the school.

CM will raise the specific issue with JD after the meeting and as a parent council we will discuss our role going forward.

Parent Questions

P3 – Headlice: a parent is concerned about the possibility of this breaking out again as there have been instances within the hub. Miss Dunn advised that the school have received advice from public health and sent out information to parents. MAG asked if it was worth advising the other year groups before returning.

Action: PC members to advise their groups of the headlice problem.

P4 – Staffing: a parent has raised concerns over the high turnover of staff including multiple probationer teachers, and they are concerned about the ability of children to build relationships. Miss Dunn advised that probationer teachers are on a one year contract and that is normal. There is a core team within the school. However, Miss Dunn advised that there has been additional funding for covid recovery which has allowed for additional support teachers. Mrs Ferguson in the office retired recently and had delayed her retirement to maintain consistency for the pupils.

CM suggested that it might be helpful for the school to confirm current staffing after the full return.

P5 – one parent had said that their child had put questions on a class feed and it had taken several hours for a response. MAG asked if there is another way that teachers can respond to the messages. Miss Dunn suggested if parents phone or email the school, the office could flag this up with the teacher that a child is waiting for a response. Some classes have issued a time so that the children know when their teacher will be looking at messages. There is also an attempt to give the children time to sort out the problem themselves or work them out with peers as they would in class. MAG stated that the communication has generally been very good from the P5 teachers and this has included being give information on when a teacher will not be available.

Bank Account

Balance is £2,024.10.

Alexis raised £500 which she very kindly gifted to the school. EG noted it would be great if we could raise money using 'Just Giving'. As we do not currently have a Fundraising Group, we would need to go to the parent body to ask if anyone would like to get involved, to take

this idea forward and investigate charitable status, which would allow parents to donate on a regular basis.

Action: PC members to go out to their groups asking for volunteers to join the Fundraising Group. EG will provide a sound bite for this.

Allison McKenzie will be standing down as Treasurer at the end of June. We will need a new Treasurer and 3 new signatories to take over in June.

Action: PC members to go out to their groups asking if anyone with accounting or book-keeping experience would be willing to take over as Treasurer. If no Fundraising Group is in place by June, 2 or 3 members of the PC will need to act as signatories in order that we can continue to use the Bank Account.

AOB

CM advised that she will stand down as chair on 7th June. Only a member of the existing PC can take over as chair. CM has offered to stay in touch with and help the new chair.

Action: PC members to consider whether they would be willing to take over as chair.

Next Meeting: Monday 7th June 2021.