

## MINUTES OF ANSTRUTHER PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

A meeting of the Anstruther Primary School Parent Council was held on Wednesday 27 April 2022 at 1830 hours.

PRESENT: G Maclaren (Chair), F Harrison (Vice Chair), C Doherty (Treasurer), J Sloan (Secretary), L Manton (Acting Head Teacher), S Easton (Depute), M McNeill (Acting Depute), A Watt, V Guiguo H Greenwood, H Maclaren, Y Tracy, L Melville, J Fyall.

APOLOGIES: M Kerrigan, S Rodger

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>  GM welcomed all. Introductions of office bearers and school representatives present. GM asked for representatives to join in an official but non-office bearing capacity.
<b>2</b>	<b>Approval of minutes and matters arising</b>  Minutes approved with ongoing matters on tonight's agenda.
<b>3</b>	<b>Head Teacher's Report</b>  3.1. Last term toughest for staffing in her 18 years – vacancies, Covid isolation. Challenge to cover classes but team amazing. Fife Council sent out people from centre to cover. Hopeful that summer term will allow some settling of rates. Encouraging vaccinations of children, Fife-wide policy.  3.2 Skate park proposal to be built beyond car park opposite Waid. 2023, 6 week build. Won't be floodlit. Not officially linked to school. Asked to gather thoughts and views by Fife Council, no decision as yet. Will share map with location. Definitely not Bankie. Lynsey asked whether any of the old Waid land is still in FC possession.  GM gave background, group of Waid pupils have formed a group. Have some funding from Muir, Council facilitating feasibility study.  3.3 Newsletter. What do we like to see in the newsletter. Fiona – who's who. LM – working on this, a photo and a snippet of information. Last term's challenges made it difficult. Display in front foyer and will be a Sway. Fiona – could walk past class teacher and not know her.  3.4 PEF funding looks to be around £70,000, in line with previous years. Will work with PC to determine what the spend looks like.  3.5 Staffing – Ruth Wright in P2 for the rest of the term. Very difficult to recruit currently, all teachers absorbed in the system with more jobs than teachers.  3.6 Equipment: Playground equipment – separate agenda item. iPads are aging and now not supported by IT. £500 per iPad to replace. Douglas

	<p>Noble will look at other funds sources. Possible ask to PC for a contribution.</p> <p>3.7 Staff training – focus on nurturing approach, planning, literacy attainment and looking at data around that. Aiming for 70% attainment, in line with all schools in Fife. SE working with parents on early intervention literacy programme, 2 meetings to date with good engagement and good feedback. Lynsey asked how the success will be reported, SE confirmed they will be sharing measurements at the start and end to evidence success.</p> <p>3.8 General discussion then about feeling of disconnect between parents and school as a result of Covid. LM – parent questionnaire feedback has fed into school improvement plan and working towards Education Scotland benchmarks. Every child has had a different lockdown experience, some have thrived, others not. Building social and emotional skills also important.</p> <p>LM talked through the standardised assessments in P1, 4 and 7 in addition to assessments in class. MM – teachers always assessing to see where the gaps are, more so now than ever through Covid. Lindsay – could this be communicated out. Claire – parents have concerns as to where their children are against expectations post-Covid, need reassurance message that the school are looking at this.</p> <p>Some key parent meetings now back face to face where felt to be critical e.g. to discuss concerns.</p> <p>Lynsey – multiple channels of communication, can be confusing and cause disengagement. Group Call is a must, also ipay impact. Seesaw felt to be working well for pupil-parent-teacher engagement. Will be a new website, feel that will be a better system, and then School app will be phased out. Discussion then around user-friendliness of Seesaw, difference between Class and Family apps, and ease of use with more than one child.</p> <p>SE – would be worth redistributing Seesaw user guide.</p> <p>GM – one parent has requested that we consider paper communications, e.g. holiday dates that could go on the fridge. Perhaps a physical letter at the start of the term. LM – copies could be made available at the front entrance for sustainability reasons. Holiday dates on FC website and on parents' FB group.</p> <p>.</p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>COVID update</b></p> <p>GM recovery is a long road, babies now who haven't been to groups etc. What do recent changes mean for school procedures.</p> <p>LM - have been talking about parents in the playground. Are some benefits to a clear playground, can clearly see all the children and not overwhelming for little ones. GM – could there be an area where parents can stand.</p>

	<p>GM – are parents still required to wear masks on school grounds? LM – mask wearing still when can't maintain 2m from colleagues. Outside, no masks needed, but yes inside when moving around.</p> <p>CD – can enquiries go to the office, or still online/ phone. LM – if you do need to come in, you can.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>No action or changes to account since last meeting. Still trying to get an online account and signatories need updated due to new office bearers.</p> <p>Just under £3,500 in account.</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Funding request</b></p> <p>How to improve the playground, asked for £400 for new equipment from the Parent Council element of the school budget. Good feedback on parents' FB group, keen to support. St Monans playground markings used as an example of what could be funded by PC.</p> <p>PC agreed to supplement that with PC funds to buy more equipment and from other suppliers.</p> <p>Lindsay – can we canvass local businesses, e.g. old tyres.</p> <p>GM – example of another school who did a Saturday morning gardening session, nice community event.</p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>P7 Leavers event and gifts</b></p> <p>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June, P7 party. PC members will decorate that afternoon. Will need volunteers to supervise. Likely to be a smaller meeting to coordinate the party. DJ Jayson from Methil, £150. Scientific calculator gift for each child, approx. £11 each.</p> <p>Children could also bring a friend from a different school in the past. Difficulties around photos and permission, also can't go on the party bus afterwards which has been problematic. Suggestion that this year that not happen. Agreed.</p> <p>Parents have organised a party bus after (not a school/ PC activity). There has been some fundraising to subsidise the £1800 cost. All invited but is purely optional.</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>After school club/ breakfast club updates</b></p>

	<p>Breakfast club now from 8.00</p> <p>Gary Peattie at FC positive on after school, think space within the school has been identified. Still work to do to identify how many children could be accommodated, what that means for cost, and therefore funding for a supervisor post. Hopeful for next session.</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>FC Leadership plans update</b></p> <p>No real update, assured of fuller consultation, participation request is in the process of being submitted to ensure breadth of representation. FC must look at that but do not have to agree to it.</p> <p>Cluster PCs have asked local election candidates to declare their positions on the issue ahead of next week's election. All but one appears not in favour of super head.</p> <p>Some concerns about Mrs Smart retiral and number of acting head positions. LM – discussion with Alan Cummings, will stay on as Acting HT until there is a final decision. Likely nothing will happen before Christmas but no official timeline. Council elections put things on hold for now, need to wait for that outcome before it will be picked up again.</p>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>School photographer</b></p> <p>L Melville happy to arrange something for Anstruther. Discussions underway, so more details to follow. Likely May, potentially outdoors weather dependent. Nature corner could be a good location.</p> <p>She has also volunteered to take photos at the P7 party as a fundraising activity.</p>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Staffing – sharing who's who</b></p> <p>Covered in HT's report above.</p>
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Sports Day</b></p> <p>Previous years potted sports in class groups in the morning, then BBQ lunch with families with more traditional races in the afternoon.</p> <p>LM – will be a sports day this year, format to be decided and date not yet set. Three dates will be set to make provision for the weather. Will be speaking to staff and children about what works well. What do parents want?</p> <p>GM – shared lunch went down well, could benefit from a PA to announce races. Parents keen, it has been missed. And having as whole school together. Could have fundraising stalls e.g. strawberries and cream.</p>

	<p>VG – will races be divided by gender? LM – no, intention is to move to mixed gender races. Some discussion around appetite for that and fairness. Yvonne – could there be a timetable so parents know when things are happening.</p> <p>LM – need to think carefully about format – children have not been together as a whole school so could be overwhelming.</p>
<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>Cost of the school day – financial support</b></p> <p>Cost of living is challenging for families now. This year no Easter egg competition entry fee. Some parents may be missing out since P1-4 meals are now free for all and so don't get e.g. clothing grant unless they proactively apply. How can we signpost parents towards the funding that is available.</p> <p>LM – residentials, work out a plan privately with families who approach the school. Work with those who aren't going to ensure the reason isn't financial. Support and Connect facility that the school can refer families to to check they're getting everything they're entitled to, money management etc.</p> <p>GM – could be something for the new website when it is up and running.</p> <p>FH – trip info said that payment could be done in instalments but no info to explain how that should be done.</p> <p>GM – credit union had come out before Covid, parents could set up an account with as little as £1 – x amount each month through school would then pay for the P7 trip and blazer. LM – absolutely supportive of this.</p> <p>CD – also the equipment needed for a trip, e.g. waterproofs and wellies. Could there be a swap shop?</p> <p>Is there a general swap shop in school? GM – not currently as hasn't been storage space, but there is appetite. Could do an event once or twice a year – bring something and swap, or make a donation and take items. Uniform, Christmas jumpers, Hallowe'en costumes. LM happy to explore that.</p>
<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>Fundraising</b></p> <p>Healthy budget but want to use it now that things are opening up. Need to start thinking about new fundraising options.</p> <p>iPads are too old and now not supported, this could be a fundraising project. Need 12. Discussion around a Go Fund me page.</p> <p>GM – will put another call out on FB for a fundraising group to get together. L Melville – could use an online concept board, a way of sharing ideas. Will set this up and post to FB.</p> <p>Discussion around FB group, and whether this would be better as a page rather than a group.</p>

<b>15</b>	<b>AOCB</b>  CD – school trips? Not been discussed, likely next year.  VG – Waid library back open, and will be open 1 Saturday in 4, likely from 21 <sup>st</sup> May, trying to get every Saturday. Bookbug back once a month. You can join online through OnFife website, or do it there. Café still shut, awaiting machines being serviced. Friends of Waid Community Library FB page now set up.
<b>16</b>	<b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b>  No further meetings this school year, Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September will be next meeting. In person with online option.