AUCHTERTOOL PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes

TUESDAY 17th MAY 2022, 6PM – 7PM **School Office**

**Attending: Lorraine Inglis, Lesley Brady, Sarah Carter, Fiona Strang, Joanna Mitchell, Ruth Forrest, Shahida Hbl, Adele McMillan**

**Apologies: Libby Patterson, Clare Williams, Jennifer Henderson, Amanda Gabor.**

1. **School Update from Mrs Brady:**
   1. **General school update** for the summer term. Another busy term is planned with lots of exciting plans. The school has been freshened up with new flooring in the corridor and P1-4 class. The corridor displays the weekly award winners, House news, extra-curricular achievements, a kindness tree where children & staff can nominate someone to appear on the tree. Slowly but surely school life is getting back to normal. Including welcoming parents back to outdoor events; Jubilee picnic in the park which will be on Thurs 2nd from 12.30 followed by the horse trials at 1.15pm (cup winners & finishers medals). **JM** to organise strawberries and drop into school on Thursday morning. Sports day now on Thursday 16th June (previous date is transition day for High School). Three children from P5/6 (Emily I, Abigail & Warren) are attending peer mediation training later this week for 2 days off site at another school to work with cluster schools. More details to follow once training has taken place.
   2. **Parent Council Support** – assisting with planting in the playground with the Eco warriors on Friday 27th PM prior to the Jubilee weekend (PC to provide plants & compost). **LI** to ask for volunteers on the PC FB page. **LI & RF** to support Dobbies trip to buy plants/compost.
   3. **Outdoor space / playground improvement** update, including 4winds grant submission. Following on all the great work to improve our playground, including the games/numbers painted on the playground floor, the bike/scooter racks and new basket-ball hoops installed, the unhygienic sandpit has been finally removed. However, following discussions with the Business Manager it has been advised that the space is not suited to a climbing wall. Therefore, after discussions, it was agreed that an outdoor classroom space would be a much better use of space for all children, with tables/chairs/benches a sensory area and canopy to provide cover & shelter & fresh artwork on the back wall. The space could be used as a learning space but also an extra area to play/rest/socialise at break/lunchtimes. **LI** to contact 4winds with updated paperwork. **LB** to provide a letter indicating change of rationale and thought since feedback from the council. Unfortunately, the grant application process has been slow for us as 4winds have not met with sufficient members since submission in February. They are now due to meet on Wednesday 25th May. **LI** to follow up with change of plans and resubmit in time for next meeting. **LI** to update group with any feedback asap.
   4. Active kids update: Liz Anderson has a new role and will no longer be our Active school’s coordinator. They are currently recruiting to fill her role. Liz has been a great contact for our school and will be greatly missed. Afterschool football continues, P5 bikeability was in school time rather than after school, however has ended for this term. It was discussed if we can extend bikeability level 1 to the P1-4 class for next term. **LB** to pick up with new coordinator. Also, potential to link in with Gary who previously volunteered? Young Junior Leaders was also discussed. These have apparently not been in place since covid. Can we look into when these may be back in place? **FS/LB** to pick up.
   5. Following the success P6/7 Residential trip to Lendrick Muir, plans to schedule 2022/23 school years trip for the new P6/7s. Looking at the same time next year, April 2023 as gives sufficient time for parents to fund the trip. It was a huge success this year and a big advantage that it is closer than Ardroy from a practical sense. The staff were amazing with our children, food was fabulous and all the children’s feedback was great! “10/10” “Best week of my life”. **LB** to make contact to provisionally look at dates and feedback to parents. There are also 100s of pics from the trip to be sorted and shared. We discussed a scrap book idea and parents to support this. **JM/LI to pick up with LB**.
   6. Lots of end of term fun; House afternoon, Winning House treat again. All scheduled for mid June.
   7. P7 transition update with transition days being held at Strathallan & Balwearie. Lola & Nicole are also invited to the Strathallan Leavers silent disco! The P7 leavers assembly & celebrating the year (PC to provide Balwearie ties) will be on Wednesday 29th June. More details to follow.
   8. Looking ahead to 2022/23 school year – We have 2 new P1s starting in Aug. They are visiting the school in June for transition. They have been invited to our picnic and the current P1s have made a welcome sway for them. We are looking at 33/34 children for the coming school year. Staffing plans are still being firmed up, however it has been confirmed that Mrs Brady will be with us until Oct as Mrs Ritchie has extended maternity leave. Additional covid recovery PSA hours have now been cut, however Mrs Brady has utilised funding for an additional 10hr of PSA hours which is great news. Mrs Stewart from the P5-7 will also be leaving us as she was only with us temporarily for this school year. Mrs Brady will confirm plans for the staffing to parents/carers/pupils as soon as possible once it has been agreed and approved.
2. **AOB**
   1. **School Photographer** – Reminder that pics are now available online to order. If you missed them via your unique login, please contact Ian via email to make them available again online. **LB/LI** to ask Mrs Murray to order the group school pic.
   2. **Projector/screen** – Potential for the school and the village hall to ‘share’ these for any school & community events in the Village Hall rather than all groups owning their own. The schools will be stored at school but can absolutely be used by the community.
   3. **Lighting/Sound system** in the Village Hall update - After covid putting a halt to progressing this, beginning to move forward the purchasing of these for the hall for the school and community use (funding previously received). **LI/SC** to take forward.
   4. **After school Yoga**: Going well and the children are enjoying the experience. Active schools never came back with suggested support options, therefore parents are taking turns to support Jo. There are sufficient funds available to provide a further block next term. **JM/LB** to agree plans.
   5. Idea for Parent Council to plan a **Sept Fair** in the school playground/park for the school & village community to come together. Link to changing seasons? Opportunity to fundraise to support the playground improvement plans? Tie in with young enterprise for the children? **Parent council** to take forward.
   6. **Hockey Taster** – **JM** to take forward for next term. We just need to check that it is Club Fife Accredited? Active Schools may need to approve? **JM/LB** to link.
   7. **Soft starts/finishes** – As school slowly reopens to parents, this is currently to outside events only (as above for picnic, sports day etc). Inside school events will hopefully follow in-line with council guidelines next school year.
   8. **Chaplaincy / Religious Moral Education** – Mrs Brady confirmed that Religious Moral Education (RME) is still covered within school time, despite us no longer having a chaplaincy contact via the village church. All world religions are discussed and explored during Assemblies and our values and morals are embedded within school life. The focus for this school year has however been covid recovery which has been heavily focused on numeracy and literacy.
   9. **World of work / Enterprise Session** – With the P5-7 children next term. **LB** to take forward for next term.
   10. **Maths strategies** – These were discussed to understand the purpose of several new strategies being currently taught in the curriculum which can sometimes appear long and complicated (e.g. split strategy). Mrs Brady explained that it is conceptual numeracy which aims to improve mental maths. All methods will be taught and this is just one. It was suggested that a maths workshop may be useful for parents/carers to attend, especially to help support their child with this way of learning. **LB** to take forward.
   11. **Speed Signage** – Speeding signage outside the village hall is still broken and illegal parking is taking place on road junctions making it unsafe for children walking/cycling to school. **All parents** to complain directly to the council. Twitter is often a good method!
3. **Next Meeting –**2nd or 3rd week Summer Term.