

## **PARENT COUNCIL MINUTES 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

**PRESENT:** Anne-Marie Greer, Stephen Humphries, Rhona Hynd, Sharon Saxton, Luisa Walker, Jen Wilkie

**APOLOGIES:** Debbie Rankine, Kelly O'Reilly, Jen Wilkie

### **1. Chairperson's Welcome**

Luisa welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that Alan McKay recently offered his resignation from the parent council following his children moving onto High School. Luisa thanked Alan for his support.

### **2. Approval of Minutes from meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

Minutes were previously approved & published.

### **3. Outstanding Issues from Previous Meeting**

#### **Plastic Free Schools**

Deferred to next meeting.

#### **Parent Communication**

Should we revisit a school app for parent communication? Stephen is expecting the Parent Portal recently launched in High Schools to be cascaded down into primary schools in September (please refer to email issued on 30<sup>th</sup> August). We will wait for this system / app to be launched and review the functionality before we consider opening up another channel of communication. This system is being funded by the council rather than by individual schools. The aim of the Parent Portal is to provide access to a variety of services such as iPay, Annual Data Check, Absence Reporting, Permission Slips, Parent Evening Bookings etc....

Should we consider a parent council managed Facebook page? This would be a closed group (Masterton Parents only) and would be for information sharing. For example, we could link with FROMPs, and promote the Parent Council. Should we trial this? If it is not used appropriately it would be shutdown.

Or do we look at all our communication channels together, before we add a Parent Council Facebook page? We already have twitter, FROMPs Facebook, See-Saw, MS Teams, email etc.... Twitter hasn't had the impact the school anticipated.

We need to ask our parent body / local community what channels they would prefer to use. We also need to bear in mind what is manageable.

The group agreed to do a poll of the parent council to agree the way forward.

A list of all current channels, original purpose, how they are currently being used would be useful to analyse and take an informed decision.

#### **Increasing Parent Council Membership**

We need to reach out to our parent body, (particularly new school parents in the last 2 years) to encourage participation and increase parent council membership, thus increasing interaction between the school and parent body. Ideally, we would have a variety of representatives – e.g. a parent representative from each class; parents from the new housing around the area, a mixture of male & female and variety of ethnicities etc...

*Action: Stephen & Luisa will prepare a communication for the parent community encouraging parent council membership and advising of the purpose of the parent council. This communication could also cover a link to a survey covering communication. Aim to issue this communication early September.*

#### **4. Headteacher's Report**

**Headcount** – For the school year 2021/22 there are 14 classes / 369 pupils (already full in some classes). We have had higher than this before (380) but expect our roll to increase past this over the year as house building continues and more children move into catchment. Housebuilders expect to release more homes between November 2021 and April 2022.

**School Extension** – The school extension is complete and now occupied by Primary 2. It was signed off during the summer holidays and snagging issues are in hand.

**Government Covid Guidance** – There are no changes to current mitigations for the first 6 weeks of term, although drama, PE and music can now take place indoors. The government will continue to review data and make guidance changes when feasible. There will be 3 weekly updates from the government. Should there be a Covid case there is now no need for whole class isolation. Public health will make the decision as to who will be contacted by track and trace and contacted individuals would have to take PCR test and isolate until they receive their results. They can return to school if this is negative. The school are preparing plans in anticipation of getting back to the dinner hall – this would be a phased return given the younger pupils have never used the dinner hall so far.

#### **5. Financial Update**

Not covered during the meeting. *No changes since last meeting:*

*Current bank balance is £6,490.68.*

Christmas Cards will be worked on in class this term and parents will be able to order online this year.

#### **6. FROMPs Update**

Not covered.

#### **7. Gala Update**

Not covered.

#### **8. Any Other Business**

**AGM** – An AGM is due to be held this term. We need to increase membership and plan a date for the next meeting (see below). *Action: School to invite parents to register to attend in the event of a zoom meeting.*

**School Uniform Deliveries** – some parents have reported lengthy delays in the Masterton school uniform delivery again.

**Thank You's** – Luisa proposed a small gift for Douglas given his length of service on the Parent Council. While we can't do this for all departing members as there are so many this time round, Douglas has been involved with the Parent Council since Masterton opened. Parent council agreed with this proposal. Rhona/Luisa will organise an appropriate gift.

## 9. Date of next Meeting(s)

**Next Meeting:** AGM: Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October  
6:30pm  
School or via Zoom – To Be Decided