

Masterton Primary School Parent Council

Tuesday 18th January 2022

Attendees: David Adamson, Ross Blanchflower, Suzy Brown, Amanda Fyfe, Becca Hamilton, Nicole Hendrickx, Stephen Humphries, Rhona Hynd, Natalie McConnell, Caroline, Ndlovu, Debbie Rankine, Sharon Saxton, Lorraine Scoullier, Fiona Waddell, Luisa Walker, Jen Wilkie

Apologies: Anne-Marie Greer, Kelly O'Reilly

Chairperson's Welcome

Luisa welcomed everyone to the Parent Council Meeting and asked if there were any additional points to be added to the agenda. Becca advised she had volunteered for the vacant Vice Secretary position, which Luisa welcomed. No other points were raised.

Approval of Minutes from meeting held 24th August 2021

Approved & published.

Approval of AGM Minutes from meeting held on 21st October 2021

Approved & published.

Outstanding Issues from Previous Meeting

- **Plastic Free Schools:** This is something the school will look at with the Eco Committee but there is a curriculum to follow and it is a child led committee so does take time. Previously the committee met every 2 weeks, but this hasn't happened due to Covid. It is hoped this can be picked up again soon.
- **Parent Communication:** Luisa confirmed that Mr Humphries recently issued the results of the parent communication survey. As a result, a private Facebook page will be established for Masterton Primary, though this has yet to be completed. Luisa offered parent council support once the page is set up, which Mr Humphries welcomed and advised he would be in touch with the parent council prior to the page launch. Mr Humphries confirmed that the page could be used for parent council members to seek inputs from parents for parent council meeting agenda items.

Headteacher's Report Headcount

Covid-19: It has been a challenging time for the school during terms 2&3. Things were improving and we were hopeful of getting back to normality before the emergence of the Omicron variant in December. This unfortunately meant any hope of having parents in school for Christmas performances were dashed. However, all pupils got the opportunity to take part in their class performance. Considering singing wasn't even allowed last year, it was progress. The new guidance schools received in light of Omicron, related to reverting back to measures previously in place. However, we did not revert back to staggered start / finish / break times but did stop the planned whole school return to the dinner hall. We are hopeful this can happen soon. All classes now have CO2 Monitors installed and any rooms with insufficient ventilation will be highlighted and windows opened. Since returning after Christmas, staff absences have been challenging (very hard

to fill due to lack of available supply staff) but we hope to see an improvement here as the overall situation improves. Pupil absences have been much fewer this term so far compared to pre-Christmas.

Primary 7 / Ardroy: The P7 trip to Ardroy is planned for March 2022 with school and Ardroy mitigations in place for Covid-19. Confident this will proceed. The primary 7 transition to High School has started online.

P1 Enrolment & Deferral Rules: P1 enrolment for 2022/23 is now open online. On the first day enrolment, we had enough applicants to fill a class already. You can now choose to defer your child at any time as long as they haven't turned 5 on the first day of term in August, previously this only applied to January & February birthdays. We won't have the impact on this change until we have all P1 catchment and placing requests submitted later in the term. The new build homes will also impact on the number of applicants. We may end up with 15 classes for 2022/23. Anticipate more than 400 pupils next school year.

Curriculum: Newsletter issued last week. New updated sex education materials to be used for the upper school health and wellbeing program, which will be shared with the parent council. There will be a focus on writing and punctuation this term across the school, including staff knowledge of what is expected across the school.

Parent Visits: We are putting plans in place for when we are allowed to have parents & carers back in the school building, so that when restrictions are lifted, we will be ready.

Financial Update

Not covered.

FROMPs

The Christmas raffle held before the holidays raised £180 (approx.)

Debbie advised that there are currently only 4 members on the FROMPs committee so Debbie highlighted that we would struggle to "staff" events as we go forward when restrictions are hopefully lifted. We hope to hold something within school towards the end of the school year (restrictions permitting), which could be leveraged to boost membership. We can also use the Facebook page when it is up and running to boost the committee.

If we can't have an event, we could consider another online fundraising activity such as a raffle. Stephen confident FROMPs will be able to host something, even if an outdoor event.

Gala Update

Amanda advised that there was a Gala Committee AGM recently, which she was unable to attend, but understands that the committee are seeking new members ahead of this year's gala. The Facebook page will be good to boost both volunteers and pupil attendance at this special day.

Any Other Business

School Dinners: Luisa raised a point about the school dinners not being hot enough. Stephen doesn't believe this is an issue.

School Books: David asked if there was an update on the planned purchase of a new school reading scheme. This is still on the to do list to review the reading schemes. Luisa asked about donating

books to the school and although they wouldn't replace a school reading scheme, they could be used for class libraries / reading for pleasure.

FroMPS / Fundraising: Caroline asked if any local employers offered matched funding, which could boost fundraising? A lot of the time this needs to be for registered charities only and can be complex to apply for, but this is something we could raise with parents in a future newsletter.

Date of Next Meeting(s)

Tuesday 3rd May 2022

Venue: School Staff Room or Zoom - TBC