

## Masterton Primary School Parent Council

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**Attendees:** Ross Blanchflower, Amanda Fyfe, Becca Hamilton, Nicole Hendrickx, Stephen Humphries, Caroline Ndlovu, Debbie Rankine, Sharon Saxton, Luisa Walker

**Apologies:** David Adamson, Anne-Marie Greer, Rhona Hynd, Kelly O'Reilly, Fiona Waddell, Lorraine Scoullier

### **Chairperson's Welcome**

Luisa welcomed everyone to the Parent Council meeting that we were now able to have in person at the school. Luisa noted that there were a few points to cover during any other business this evening that had been emailed in prior to this evening's meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes from meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

Approved & published.

### **Outstanding Issues from Previous Meeting**

- **Plastic Free Schools:** No update due to class commitments. It is hoped this can be looked at again soon.
- **Parent Communication:** The Masterton Primary School private Facebook group has been set up and is now live with 172 members already and counting. Mrs Saxton confirmed that the Facebook page will replace the school's Twitter page which will be closed by the end of the month. To join, members must answer two questions. If the two questions are not answered, the member's request will be declined. Mrs Saxton confirmed that events will still be communicated via email as she is aware that some parents do not use Facebook. Luisa asked if the Parent Council could use the Facebook page as a way to ask for agenda items and canvas information. Mrs Saxton confirmed that Mrs Reekie has admin rights to the Facebook page so if the Parent Council would like something added to the Facebook page, to email Mrs Reekie. Mrs Saxton also mentioned that a Communications Policy and Guidance document has been created detailing the various ways parents/carers can communicate with the school. This has been distributed via email to all parents/carers. Mrs Saxton may review the members now and then to ensure any parents/carers of school leavers are no longer part of the group.

### **Headteacher's Report:**

This term for the school is the busiest term of the year.

- **Dinner Hall:** All pupils were back in the dinner hall on the last week of term 3. This had been our aim all along, so it was great to have achieved it. It's working very well, and the pupils seem to be very happy with it – as do the teachers.
- **Attainment:** The local authority has asked for our attainment data to be on the system for the 13<sup>th</sup> May which is very early. The Scottish Government will pick it up on the 13<sup>th</sup> June. It is 2 weeks earlier than last year which is undoubtedly related to Covid and to see what impact Covid continues to have. Our data is in line with previous years.

- **Learning Partnership:** This week on Thursday we will have a visit from our Education Manager, Karen Lees, and two other HTs to quality assure the work we are doing. This will be the first time these visits have taken place in person in over 2 years. The focus of the visit will be on meeting pupils needs.
- **School Communications:** We recently opened our new Facebook page. We also issued our school communications policy / guidance to all parents. This was created on the back of the responses from the parent survey.
- **iPads:** The school is to have its iPads removed as they are over 7 years old. They have been deemed a 'threat to the network'. There was no lead up or warning about this happening, so I have been in contact with the Head of ICT in Fife expressing my anger. I don't know where this will end up but it's a very difficult situation. I should say that there are many schools in this position, so we are not the only one.
- **Classes:** It is almost certain that we will be at 15 classes next session with over 400 pupils. Letters to new P.1s were issued last the weekend, as well as to pupils who have moved into catchment but been unable to get a space in the school at this point because certain classes were full. With this certainty it will allow me to work on class structures earlier than normal. The only downside is that we will not know our staffing to closer to the end of term. However, I'm not expecting any big changes to my staffing with probably around 90% staying the same. Classes will be issued as soon as I know my staffing.

It was asked what the process is if pupils are within the catchment area when they first start at Masterton, but then become out of the catchment area due to moving house. Mr Humphries confirmed there is a form that can be submitted requesting that you remain at the school. Mr Humphries mentioned that if you leave the catchment area but remain at Masterton Primary School, you lose the rights to High School transport. Mr Humphries mentioned that he tries his best to accommodate any sibling applications to Masterton. He also advised that he usually emails a letter out to parents to advise new classes and teachers for the upcoming year.

- **School Reports:** They are due to be issued in June as per normal. The provisional date is for around the middle of June. If we can get them out earlier, we will.
- **Masterton Mile / Sports Day:** We will be able to have parents in to watch both events. The letter for this was issued last week. We've spread the races over a day as opposed to just the morning.
- **P.7 end of term performance:** We are planning for 2 parents per pupil to be able to see their end of term performance.
- **Rugby Development Officer:** was in working with the P.6 and P.7 pupils. They had a particular focus upon developing girls' rugby.
- **BeatBox:** Have been in working with P.4/5 and P.5.
- **Lochore P.7 – S.1 transition:** I've been working on a project where **all** pupils in the Dunfermline High cluster have the opportunity to have a day out in Lochore with another

school. Over the month of May there will be 8 days where pupils take part in activities with one other school. The funds for this have come from a grant so it looks like it will be a one-off opportunity. One group has already gone.

- **Football:** Every Friday pm. We have our first football match in over 2 years due to take place next week.
  
- **Nursery – P.1 transition:** The nursery to Primary 1 transition has now begun and Mrs Saxton confirmed that the school are going to do a blended approach of online and face-to-face sessions. This will include information sessions via Zoom, a video tour of the school, utilising Seesaw, Mrs Saxton conducting an introduction via video, drop-in sessions at the school, 2x class sessions between pupils and teachers, a picnic on the pitch event, a story and an online question and answer session. These events will take place from now until the end of term. In previous years, there was an event where FROMPs, Out of School Club and Parent Council were there to discuss options with parents/carers and it was asked if this would be something that would be done this year. Mrs Saxton confirmed that she feels it works better giving the information in sections to make it easier for parents/carers to digest.
  
- **Parent Questionnaire:** Will be issued towards the end of term.
  
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- **Covid Risk:** Still graded by the Scottish Government as **moderate**.  
*'Schools are not recommended to return to pre-pandemic practices and are encouraged to retain good practice developed during the pandemic where appropriate.'*

#### **Financial Update**

Kelly passed on her apologies during the meeting for not being able to attend tonight and advised she would send the account figures through as soon as possible. The school had received some banking letters which Mr Humphries passed on to Luisa for these to be passed on to Kelly.

#### **FROMPs Update**

Debbie advised they are currently running with 3 members so it will be difficult to staff events and there is currently nothing planned before the end of term. FROMPs have agreed to meet soon to plan for next term.

#### **Gala Update**

Amanda confirmed there is unfortunately no gala this year. There was an AGM held in April and people have joined the committee which is a boost to membership. There was some discussion about The Carnegie Dunfermline Trust which has been set up and who are hosting picnic in the park which is being publicised, but this Trust is separate to the gala committee.

#### **Any Other Business**

- **Parent Helpers:** Caroline asked if parent helpers were something that Masterton utilised. Mr Humphries advised that pre-Covid, they often had parent volunteers assist the school with various activities but during Covid, this was stopped. This is something the school will consider further after the summer now that Covid restrictions have eased.
  
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- **Classroom Visits:** Ross asked if there would be an event held for current Primary 1 and Primary 2 children's parents/carers who have not yet been into their child's classroom to look around. Mr Humphries advised that he is determined to get parents/carers into the school before the end of term and is looking at options.
- **School Lunches:** Becca asked if school lunches could be reviewed as the lunch choices are the same every two weeks and have not changed since her son started school in August last year. Mr Humphries and Mrs Saxton said that the lunch options used to change every term but wonder if this has been stripped back due to Covid. Unfortunately, it is not the school that deal with lunch choices, this is managed by the catering staff.
- **Lapwing Drive Speed Limit:** Nicole advised that Lapwing Drive speed limit is 40mph and she has written to the council and MP's about changing this speed limit to 20 mph with it being a main road that hundreds of children cross to get to and from school, making this a dangerous road to cross. Nicole asked if there was anything the school can do to assist in getting this speed limit changed. Mr Humphries is going to check the active school travel plan to see if Lapwing drive is included in these plans. Luisa mentioned that it may be good for the Parent Council to draft up a letter to send on behalf of the school parents/carers to request this road speed limit be changed. Luisa has taken this away as an action point for further consideration.
- **School Photographs:** Someone raised the question of school photos on the school Facebook page and Luisa noticed the latest update that was provided on this was that after cancelling the school photos due to Covid, the school are now looking at options to see if they can get something booked. Mrs Reekie has been in contact with Tempest to see if they have any availability and is awaiting a response.
- **End of Term Parties:** On behalf of Kelly, Debbie asked if there will be any end of term parties for the children. Mrs Saxton confirmed this is something the school have never done and do not plan on doing. The school are hoping to hold something for the Primary 7 leavers. Mrs Saxton also mentioned that in previous years, the school have held a celebration for the winning House and is something they may look into doing this year.
- **Eco Committee:** Amanda asked if the Eco Committee is going to re-start soon. Mrs Saxton advised that due to class commitments, the Eco Committee have not been able to meet but hopes that they will meet at some point during this term.
- **Wellbeing Groups:** Luisa asked if Wellbeing groups was something that could be started back up now that Covid restrictions have eased. Mrs Saxton advised that due to class commitments, she has not been able to hold wellbeing groups since Covid and requires 12 weeks to run this group. This is something Mrs Saxton is keen to pick up again when time allows.

**Date of Next Meeting(s)**

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Venue: School Community Room