

Masterton Primary School Parent Council

Tuesday 25th April 2023

Attendees: David Adamson, Ross Blanchflower, Anne-Marie Greer, Becca Hamilton, Nicole Hendrickx, Stephen Humphries, Kelly O'Reilly, Sharon Saxton, Lorraine Scoullier, Karen Stewart, Luisa Walker, Haajira Hussain, Kirsty Leonard, Kelly McLauchlan

Guest: Councillor James Calder

Apologies: Amanda Fyfe, Rhona Hynd, Debbie Farquharson, Caroline Ndlovu, Fiona Waddell, Suzy Brown, Debbie Rankine, Jen Wilkie

Chairperson's Welcome

Luisa welcomed Councillor James Calder and new parents to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes from previous meeting held 17th January 2023

Approved & published.

Outstanding Issues from Previous Meeting

Lapwing Drive Speed Limit (Luisa) – An assessment took place to look at the recommendations of reducing the speed limit. This then was taken forward to the Dunfermline area committee meeting which took place on 7th February 2023 and signs have been placed on the streetlamps notifying people of this recommendation. Cllr Calder confirmed the motion was completed last year and has to then go out to formal consultation. If there are no disputes, transportation will proceed with the speed reduction. If there are any disputes, another report will need to be produced and submitted to the committee again. **Action: Cllr Calder is going to send Luisa details on how to pass comment on the motion which will be shared with the Parent Council.**

Winter Coat Drive / School Uniform Clothing Bank (Becca) – Becca advised the Parent Council that the Winter Coat Drive was a success, in that over 40 coats were passed on from the Masterton PS community to Social Workers in the local area. At the last meeting, an action was set to re-visit the School Uniform Clothing Bank. The Parent Council do feel this is still worthwhile having, perhaps in the form of a coatrack in the school for people to help themselves to or a thrift shop stall at the Summer Fayre where people can make a donation if they so wish, to remove any stigma. **Action: Luisa and Becca will liaise out with the meeting to discuss the logistics of a thrift shop.**

iPads Follow-Up (David / Luisa) – Mr Humphries provided a summary of the iPad situation (Parent Council paid for iPads and in May 2022, with no prior warning, Fife Council came to the school and removed the iPads). Mr Humphries advised that the school were keen to work towards their Digital Schools Award during 2022/2023 but were unable to do so because of this. After several emails between Mr Humphries and the head of IT, Scott Galloway, Luisa wrote to Sarah Else where she received a reply similar to those received from Scott Galloway in that the software was no longer supported and that iPads purchased through school donations/fundraising are not supported in the yearly refresh programme. Mr Humphries confirmed the school have not had a yearly refresh of IT and would have still found other uses for the iPads even if they were offline. Cllr Calder echoed the Parent Council's concerns and confirmed it sounds like this has come from IT rather than Education which is impacting thousands of pupils as this is affecting other schools in Fife. Cllr Calder is keen to try and find out more information and has asked Mr Humphries to send him more information on

this matter for him to take forward. Cllr Calder advised that if he is unable to gain a resolution, he may potentially escalate to full council in May.

Lorraine mentioned that from October, Primary 1 pupils in Midlothian will be given individual iPads and that iPad will stay with individuals throughout Primary School. Anne-Marie also mentioned that there are similar programmes at schools in other areas in Scotland and states this a Scottish Government initiative. Cllr Calder is keen to get to the bottom of the removal of the iPads from schools as a priority.

Headteacher's Report

iPads / ICT infrastructure of the school

As mentioned above, I raised my concerns regarding the removal of the iPads with the Lead Officer of IT (Scott Galloway) and was told that the i-pads were no longer supported. I asked these questions and received the following responses-

Firstly, what is to happen to the iPads after they are removed? Are they to be scrapped or are they to be re-imaged and put back into circulation. There is a value surrounding them whether in school or not. **[Scott Galloway] Devices that are removed from our network must go to an acknowledged service which erases all of the data and supplies us with a certificate. If you thought that these could be sold to a person and any photos or videos were retrieved from them, the political and parent pressure would be uncomfortable.**

If they are to be scrapped how does that fit into the climate change agenda. We are working towards our Green Flag and environmentally this would affect it. **[Scott Galloway] The school isn't scrapping them, Fife Council is.**

Will there be any replacement for them or are we as a school to fund our own replacements. **[Scott Galloway] All schools were advised that the purchase of iPads was out with their refresh and any replacement would need to be budgeted for. Unfortunately, the HTs advised of this are not always the same ones who need to deal with the replacement.**

We continued to pursue this including when Luisa Walker (Chair of the parent council) met with Education Manager Sarah Else to discuss before putting in a formal complaint. The response was as below-

*As you know, all ICT equipment have a finite lifespan, when the hardware becomes obsolete, newer software/Apps cannot support those older technologies. The impact of equipment coming to the end of its life is that Fife Council has a yearly refresh for all device types and operating systems bought by the Council. **Schools who have purchased equipment from their own budgets or from donated contributions are not included in this program.***

My understanding of that final paragraph is that if I invested money in new IT equipment then if it broke then they would not replace it.

Other Activities in School

- We have or have had a number of university students in the school – P.1/2 , P.1b, P.3/4 and P.4/5 (PGDE)
- We had our ceilidh. The pupils worked incredibly hard learning their poems as well as creating art to cover the walls of the Hall
- We have had a visit from DHT at Dunfermline High School to see P.7s
- We were runners up in the Rotary Quiz. We lost out in the final by 1 point
- School photos- We were really lucky that the photographers re-scheduled so quickly
- We took part in World Book Day. All pupils dressed as their favourite book character and carried out book-based activities
- A Learning Partnership visit took place. This involved the Education Manager, HT from Canmore, HT from Bellyeoman , DHT from Donibristle. 14 lessons were observed and feedback given
- 2 Parent’s Evenings took place
- We took part in Comic Relief Day
- There was a Planetarium visit
- Visit from 2 players from Dunfermline Athletic to P.7 (PARS tackle health)
- The first all girl’s football match.

Activities planned for Term 4

28.4.23	Shared Start 9.10 – 9.40 am
1.5.23	Bank Holiday
8.5.23	Coronation Day Holiday
9.5.23	Wild Science workshop
10.5.23	P.1 and P.7 class photos
19.5.23	Masterton Mile
20.5.23	Summer Sizzle
5.6.23	Bank Holiday
6.6.23	In Service (School Closed to pupils)
7.6.23	Sports Day
13-15 June 23	P.7 Induction Days (Dunfermline HS)
24.6.23	Dunfermline Gala Day
29.6.23	P.7 End of Term Performance

Classes 2023/24

It is likely there will be the same number of classes as this session.

P.1 numbers are similar to previous years but numbers will depend upon acceptance of places being offered.

Limited impact from the housing next to us so far (houses aren’t complete)

Some discussions were had around the makeup of classes and Mr. Humphries explained that he has limited options when it comes to reviewing the makeup of composite classes. It was mentioned that parents feel children should be kept to their year group, particularly children in P3/4 to which Mrs. Saxton and Mr. Humphries both confirmed they do try to keep children that are in composite classes with their peers as much as they can and that this is monitored.

Action: *the subject of composite classes is to be revisited at the next meeting as we will know the makeup of classes for the 23/24 academic year by then.*

Financial Update

Current balance £6338.11

Income (after associated expenses):

Halloween party = £345.18

Income from Christmas Fayre £1910.98

Income from Christmas cards = £325

Kelly mentioned the income from the Halloween Party looks significantly less than the Christmas Fayre due to future event preparation. There have already been some expenses for the summer fayre and welcome back disco that have been paid.

Kelly advised that Christmas card profit is down £500 each year compared to when she first started doing the Christmas cards and wonders if this is because it is now fully digital compared to a previous year when it was paper based. Kelly asked the Parent Council if they would like to continue with digital or change to paper based. It was agreed by the Parent Council that we would run one more year of doing the Christmas cards digitally where we will raise awareness of this activity and then re-assess after this time.

Kelly highlighted that there is a large sum of money sitting in the account and the Parent Council is keen to invest this money. It was decided that if any of the Parent Council members have any suggestions on how to invest/spend this money, to email Luisa with ideas. Luisa will then collate and send to Becca who will create a MS Form with the various options for all Parent Council members to take a vote on their preferred option.

Action – *When minutes are issued, please could people be encouraged to send any ideas on how the money could be spent to Luisa/Becca via email.*

Mrs Saxton asked if the Eco Council could have £150 for a competition they are running, explaining that the Eco Council's next priority is bio-diversity and how the school can increase bio-diversity in the playground. Each class will be given £10 and they can spend this on anything they feel would increase bio-diversity such as planters or within a specific area of the playground. The Parent Council agreed to the spending of £150 for this activity.

FROMPS Update

FROMPS are busy organising the school Summer fayre taking place on 20th May 2023 and preparation is going well. FROMPS have organised a couple of external stalls, a bouncy castle, assault course, football competition and possibly Jo Jingles.

One concern FROMPS have at the moment is that we aren't going to get enough volunteers which may mean that the event cannot go ahead so if anyone is able to spare even an hour of the 4-hour event, we would be really, really grateful.

Becca mentioned that a member of the Masterton Community has approached FROMPS asking if we can fundraise for new football strips for the new girls football team as they are currently using the boys football strips. Becca asked Mr Humphries and the Parent Council if they would be happy for any profits made at the football competition stall, are allocated to buying the girls new football strips. Mr Humphries and the Parent Council all agreed.

Kelly suggested that for future events, we can look at using a card reader for payment instead of cash. The Parent Council agreed this would be worthwhile. Kelly confirmed she would look at options.

Action – *Options for payments at school events to be discussed at next meeting.*

FROMPs have locked in the date of 1st September for a welcome back disco for the children which is going to be a silent disco. Becca mentioned that FROMPs are thinking of charging a set entry fee which will give the children entry into the disco and a goody bag with a sweetie, packet of crisps and a juice (and should pay for the silent disco too!). Then there will be some stalls such as a tattoo stall and lucky dip.

FROMPs are looking to do the Halloween disco on Friday 27th October (FROMPs will email Mrs Stevenson soon about this date to secure the hall).

Action – Becca to identify how many volunteers FROMPs require from upper years for the summer fayre and send to Mrs Saxton.

Gala Update

No gala update provided.

Any Other Business

Health & Wellbeing Lessons (Anne-Marie) – Anne-Marie mentioned an incident which has led to her identifying there was no communication to P4 parents/carers about current Health and Wellbeing topics. Mrs Saxton said there was an incident where questions were asked in class and will look into the current procedures including when letters are sent to parents/carers.

Playground Equipment (Lorraine) – Lorraine asked if the school have outdoor play equipment/play boxes including items such as chalk, magnifying glasses, hooks ropes and if this is something that could be purchased with the money currently in the Parent Council bank account. Mrs Saxton advised this is something they do not currently have but have had in the past and were not overly popular. Mrs Saxton advised she would put this idea forward to the children via the House Captains to obtain the children's views on this.

Active Schools (Haj) – Haj was keen to know if any Active Schools activities were taking place within the school currently. Luisa confirmed that Active Schools are currently attending the school, targeting certain classes. Mrs Saxton mentioned that as Masterton is a Private Finance school, we are limited on the timings that activities can take place as the school incurs a charge. This is something the Parent Council would like to discuss further to find out what activities are going on and are planned in the future within the school so would like this left as an action point for the next meeting.

Action – *Active schools activities to be discussed at the next meeting.*

School Trips - There was some discussion over school trips and the expense of these. Many parents are keen to send their children on school trips. It was suggested that we could perhaps put a survey out to Masterton PS parents/carer asking for ideas of school trips and give people the opportunity to

advise how much they would be willing to spend (eg. £5-£10, £10-£20 etc). As time was running out, nothing definite was confirmed on this.

Action – *School Trips & funding to be discussed at next meeting.*

Communication – Karen commented that since the last meeting, the electronic communication from the school (texts and emails) had been very positive. Karen acknowledged that the school had been receptive to our feedback.

Date of Next Meeting(s)

Not arranged due to running out of time.