**Parents Council 9 November 2022**

Attendees – Stewart Derrick, Chair,

 Carolann McLuckie, Treasurer

 Laura Young, Secretary

 Alison Brenigan

Agenda Items –

**HT report discussion –** went through the elements of the report

**Car Park Email**

Headlines are –

* Children are crossing the road and there are lots of cars driving up past into the staff car park and there have been near misses in terms of children being hit by cars
* Teachers cars have been damaged in the car park
* Teachers have been unable to get into the car park and been late for lessons because of the car park being utilised by parents taking up the spaces.
* Not enough spaces for all of the staff at the moment, so losing any spaces to parents is having a larger negative impact on staff members.

**School Disco noise level/traffic issue**

Issues from the disco. Teachers reviewing the process from the disco for example the fire safety process and we need to have a tighter process in terms of people knowing the fire safety procedures at events in the school.

Action to talk to the DJ and just adjust the volume in order to accommodate all children and this will ensure it is inclusive but still very fun for all kids.

Parking/Traffic Jam was a factor for parents, but not the schools fault, a factor of having children at a school event. We will review and discuss with the council regarding lighting that enables us to utilise the academy car park and make it a safe walk for parents from the Academy car park to Balmalloch Primary School.

**Homework Experience**

Positive feedback – Miss McCarthy sends the homework on the Friday and that really helps set up the homework over the weekend. Can we get more detail behind the strategies and examples of what we need to do.

We need to look at the digital videos from the school so we see what the strategies are to show parents what the approaches are re different types of homework and then we can utilise them.

Want to ensure we see an increase in maths homework – can we see more direction in teams files on the class maths work for example and the parents who want to can engage upon it. Can we also highlight maths work in the matrix sheets that are sent out by teachers as well. Ruth to take it back to the teachers re feedback.

**Christmas Trips/Panto/church service**

School will still do a Christmas party but we do not have the funds in order to fund a pantomime. With the cost of living crisis, we do not want to ask parents to pay for the full cost of the pantomime and travel to a pantomime, and with us ensuring that the school is an equaliser and all children are treated equally, we are not going to have the panto for children who can pay and not for those who cannot.

We will review again next year, and Ruth will explore with the high schools locally if they are putting on shows, if the children can attend this or rehearsals for this.

Ruth asked Louise Duncan to put this on the Cluster agenda – 16th November, 2022

**School policy feedback**

Action was to highlight the numbers of people actually responding to the policy, which is good to see. We need to encourage more reviews and feedback from parents on the policy. A small but pragmatic point on it is the font on the emails that are hard to read then leave people disengaged to read it further and engage.

Also published on the school website. More clarity on the actual ask in the email.

**Classes coming out at different times**

Safety and Security are of paramount importance – there have been issues when children have advised a parent/carer/grandparent is there for them and that has not been the case. If parents/carers wish their child to be released without an adult this would need to be confirmed in writing. If alternative arrangements are required, this would need to be confirmed in writing.

**Learning Log /Snapshot Jotter**

Reporting progress at key stages in the session. Learner dialogues take place each term to build on learners’ experiences, impacting on progress.

**Twitter Equity**

The agreement is one tweet a week. But we are not hearing one tweet a week from some classes, Ruth to follow up. Parents council flagged we are not looking to limit classes/teachers where they provide more tweets – that’s great and positive. We want to ensure that one tweet a week is being adhered to, to ensure parents are seeing the class activities.

Mr Paterson checked the Tweets and classes are putting at least one tweet on per week.

**Deputy Head Interview process.**

Ruth has confirmed a male DHT from another area to ensure gender balance on the panel. We need two members from the parents council to attend. Stewart and Alison on the panel. Possible dates will be the 14/15/16th of December for the interview, so we will ensure that the teams training on the interview process training for the parents council will happen before then, so we are able to attend the panel.

**AOB**

1. **Community Council** - Bill Craik, and Heather Mcvey – going to meet twice a year, in order to see what we can utilise for the school. They have added information on cost of living website on the HT report so people can see the support that is out there. Send the cost of living details out in Group call in order to share fully – Ruth to action.

This actioned after the PC meeting.

Nursery also meeting with Heather Brannan McVey who will support the work of our nursery.

1. **Action** - We are going to Jeanie’s Weans for support for families who need support at Christmas. Lets get information on this and get it out there from a Group call point of view in order to get parents who can donate, to donate to Jeanie’s Weans and then the school children will benefit from this.
2. **Photography project** – possible project where we encourage children, with the help of the Rotary Club, to take part in a photography project. An ask to parents has been for digital cameras to be donated.
3. **Next Action –** Silver stories is an idea that we will explore**,** where children phone someone in a home and read them a story over a phone. This builds community responsibility and engagement, and links younger and older generations in a positive way.
4. **Picnic Benches –** Restorative Justice are restoring the benches in order to support Balmalloch and they are restoring the benches for the school and they are building a shed for us as well. Heather McVey put us in contact with them – free labour but costs of materials fall to the school to fund. This will support the children in understanding and working with nature.