

Calderhead High School

Parent Council Meeting

Thursday 8th February 2018

In Attendance:-

Claire Whyte, Jennifer Hayburn, Alison Barr, Fiona Forrest, Nana McLean, Gordon Muir, Susan Duncanson, Elaine Byrne, Maxine Paterson, John Robertson

Apologies:-

Pauline Marks, Lynn Prentice, Corrina Campbell, Linsey Fairlie

Correspondence

No Correspondence

Head Teacher Report

Report received prior to meeting – issues discussed

Staffing – bidding for probationers (biology, HE, PE, English) – won't find out until after new timetable comes into effect in a June so it's a timetabling nightmare!

Consultation re Kirk o Shotts primary now coming to Calderhead. – this is not a council lead issue, could be parent council or councillor driven? Following a recent meeting some parents have requested a tour of the school. This would be for current P6 and below, sibling rule would apply if pupil wished to go to Caldervale but if an older sibling currently at Caldervale wished to transfer to Calderhead it would be considered privileged transport and only available if space in vehicle. Should this proposal go ahead it would mean approx 8 or 9 pupils per year.

Curriculum – current 2nd years will get free choice, based on choices it will then be decided what is possible, classes will need a minimum number to run.

Changes to National 5s from this year and highers from next see the end of unit tests. Without these the exams will be more robust and will be longer than those up until now. We questioned do the staff think this is a good or bad thing...., the unit tests are low level difficulty but with big admin impact on staff....little time to prepare for assessments due to

the level of admin so in the long term a good thing but managing the change will be a challenge.

Gritting and clearing of school grounds.

Gordon raised this issue. The snow and the failure to clear the school grounds had a bigger impact on his family than some of us as the buses did not run from Harthill for most of the week despite the main roads being cleared. The bus companies could not therefore bring coaches to the school as the grounds could not be entered. (Some of us do not understand why the pupils could not walk from Dyfrig street as local pupils were expected to walk!)

John confirmed that he tried repeatedly to get the grounds and car park cleared or for authority to hire someone to do this with no success. Feeling strongly about the situation, after speaking with John, Gordon had called an actually managed to speak to someone in the NLC roads department and also within education. It seems that there is no joined up thinking within the council as 'roads are roads' and 'education is education'. Roads ie. the gritters cover the roads but the school grounds are under education therefore the gritters cannot enter! Shocking!

As far as the school grounds go the only requirements are for a path to the door and the fire escapes clear.

This had an impact on all pupils as a normal timetable could not run with almost a week of disruption to lessons, this is not acceptable. Whilst hopefully this is the end of the matter for now we want to get answers on this for next winter. Eg. Could the school not have a standing authority to call on and pay for clearance possibly even from local farmers who may be happy to help.

The issue also affects teachers and in turn the surrounding streets, teachers are expected to be at work, car park is out of commission, so they then have to use the local streets. (Parking at school is a luxury not a requirement!)

Nana advised that the condition of the local roads in general was raised at the recent community council meeting with strong feeling about the substandard treatment of our roads and community. At the next meeting she will put forward our thoughts on the matter to add to the issues already raised and hopefully the councillors will take this forward.

S5/S6 Parents Night

A casualty of the recent bad weather was the S5/S6 parents night which understandably could not go ahead.

John advised that it will be discussed on the upcoming inservice day with the proposed dates being 6th March (instead of the 3rd year night which would be rescheduled for October) or the 12th March. We all agreed that we were happy with either and whatever suits the staff best is fine.

AOCB

Nana asked about having our usual March quiz night. After a bit of discussion we settled on Friday 23rd March as the proposed date. We have another meeting before then by which

time we can hopefully have a better idea of number of teams and availability of bowling club and Jim Robertson as quizmaster. Nana will text Alison to see if she can check out bowling club availability.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 1st March @ 6pm