Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting held via Webex on Wednesday 23rd November 2020

Present: Beverly Parvin; Claire McKindless; Christine Devine; Gemma Graham; Nadia Dolan; Stacy Hallett; Alan Jack; Susanne McLean; Nicole Dick and Julie Cassidy

Apologies: Angela: White

School: Fiona Easton Ruth Kesley Liz Kesley and Stuart MacNab

The previous minutes were approved and seconded by CMcK

HT REPORT

1. Halloween

The children all had a great day and there was a real buzz around the school.

1. Christmas Activities

A Santa visit was arranged and presents were given to the infant classes. The children enjoyed a Fun/Craft Day.

A pantomime was purchased for all classes to watch online.

The children enjoyed Christmas Movie days

Christmas Dinner was on 17th December 2020

1. Report cards were issued and phone calls were arranged for parents who requested them.
2. Ruth Kesley developed a timetable for Nurture.

P1 Lego and Junior and Senior groups

1. SIP Priorities
2. Curriculum Recovery
3. Health and Wellbeing
4. Digital Learning
5. Training
* Stuart MacNab, Ruth Kesley, Susan Bauer and Kimberley Swan to attend Maths Mindset training
* Stuart MacNab starting a Digital Leadership course
1. Parental Survey

Parents were sent a survey to complete regarding the first lockdown. Most parents agreed that communication between the school and parents was good whilst some felt it could have been a bit better.

During the lockdown Fiona Easton and Ruth Yates made phone calls and also emailed parents to keep in touch.

Parent Council Group Meeting hosted by William Collum

Claire McKindless attended this meeting and gave a brief update;

* Meeting was informative, but a lot to take in over 2 hours
* Training opportunities for Parents
* There was a small amount of money available as a lump sum for schools eg £6.00 for each PC meeting and 23p per pupil.
* Fundraising was also discussed

Digital Learning

Stuart MacNab updated the council on this;

Virtual Classrooms are being developed

I Pads were being used to access digital/blended learning

3 devices had been issued to families to assist with this.

The school also had to use some ICT devices from the school for some children who did not have a device at home.

Constitution and Code of Conduct

The code of conduct would be sent out to all members for signing. This was to be emailed back to Liz Kesley

AGM and Minutes

It was agreed officially to make the date of the AGM during the month of September and also the minutes of every meeting would be posted on the school website after being approved.

Parental Engagement

Fiona spoke a bit about Parental Engagement and said we had started it last year. She said we will continue to involve our parents however this has been made harder during Covid as we can’t have parents in the school. She said we will continue with our regular communications and surveys to collect parent’s views.

Finances

PC Bank Balance was £3584.77.

It was proposed by the Chairperson that the previous minute to have only £500 in the account before giving the money to the school be amended. Claire McKindless seconded this. Liz Kesley to amend.

The PC decided that they would hold on to the money in the account, because of the restraints to raise money at present and just in case there was an emergency to replace a Smartboard for example. Also to replace PE equipment when school is back to normal.

Claire had said that North Lanarkshire Council pay the insurance for every school with a Parent Council. Angela said she would look into cancelling the insurance we paid for with a view to getting some money back.

Fundraising

It was agreed that as the usual methods of fundraising were on hold because of Covid the PC would looks at alternative ways of raising money. Mrs Easton explained that PE equipment, although needed, could not be purchased because of problems with storing it. All PE was taking place outdoors until further notice. Beverley Parvin asked the Council what their thought were on a Go Fund page for the school. This was agreed to be a good idea. A member made a suggestion that if parents could see the end result of all the fundraising they might be more likely to support it. (Maybe a target board at reception to see what is needed and what has already had been raised).

It was also suggested that teaching staff should prepare a wish list for their classes.

Mrs Easton said that the school were going to arrange a Dance–a -thon to raise money for the school. She said there were things the school provided that were not always visible to parents. She gave a few examples of what the school fund is spent on:

Scooters and playground toys, safety helmets, gardening club tools and purchase of wood for raised beds. Lego for Lego clubs. ICT and stationery. Individual Class topics that require the teacher to purchase additional materials. Discretionary purchases for some children.

Other items longer term that need to be considered for purchase were: Outdoor Storage and Outdoor waterproofs for the children to facilitate as much outdoor play and PE as possible at the moment due to having no PE Hall.

Dates for Meetings

Future dates for meetings will need to be discussed but most members agreed that Mondays were best at the moment.

It was agreed that all future meeting dates will be decided asap and posted on the school’s website and the PC page.

The next meeting will be Jan/Feb and Beverley Parvin would arrange this early in the New Year.