Minutes of meeting

1st September 2021

Present – Claire McKindless, Gayna Doyle, Michelle MacPherson, Gemma Thomson, Alan Jack, Laura McWhinnie, Suzanne McLean, Nicole Dick, Gillian Armit, Nadia Dolan, Fiona Easton, Ruth Kesley, Liz Kesley and Stuart McNabb

Apologies – Jodieanne Parvin

Introduction – everyone introduced themselves and said why they joined the parent council.

HT Report

Pupils have returned to school. It’s been great to see them playing without bubbles outside and in classes. We now have to learn to live with covid. The pupil council and buddies have been appointed and children are playing more together.

SIP (Priorities) Pupil’s wellbeing and feeling safe in the school are a top priority. Ensuring the school to be a leading place in the community. We want to make this school the best it can possibly be. Staff are feeding back that they love our school and working here. Ruth is covering Nurture and learning support from p1-p7. We want to be transparent and ensure that any money raised or spent is shared with the parent forum. We are working together with other school with assessment and moderation.

ICT Investment - Stuart McNab. A few years ago, we had (20) new iPad. They are now too old to put new apps on. We are using ICT more and more in covid and to maximize on this we need to invest in ICT to promote skills and knowledge. We had 10 new notebooks and 9 new laptops. (29 in total). Still very low when we have 170 pupils in the school. NLC are investing in digital learning.

Claire McKindless opened with – When I joined the PC 4 yrs. ago, we looked at PEF. What we found was because we stay in, what’s classed as, an affluent area we get less PEF than most other schools in out area. A power point presentation was presented showing we are in the bottom 20% of all schools in North Lanarkshire. This also showed the difference in what the surrounding schools get. It also explained why we don’t have lots of spare money. Question was asked about why other schools get extra, we don’t understand? Claire explained about how PEF is allocated and how it can be used.

Fiona Easton added that PEF is to help target the attainment gap. The school uses it where they can, e.g., Additional classes – we have Gemma Graham and Ruth Kesley is out of class to raise to the attainment challenges. 13% get free school meals

Claire McKindless – I know there was talk about the school getting £3000. We want to be transparent. Handing a cheque over for that amount without exactly what it is used for does not show transparency. We would rather give 10 cheques for specific things rather than 1 lump sum, this way we can easily account for every penny. Fiona Easton agreed. If we are going to be raising funds, we say up front what we will be fundraising for. Everyone agreed to this. We have paid back the money to the school for P7 leavers do

PC role - what we want to achieve! To think about what we can do to help support and better the school. To start up an email address so that people can contact the PC. Michelle MacPherson – not to target the school, it’s a parent council we need to monitor what people think we can deal with for the school. Fiona Easton – Facebook page – make it very clear if there is a problem, they contact the head teacher at the school.

Gemma Thomson – I don’t think everyone knows what the role of the parent council is. Parent’s have no way of contacting the PC. How can we help them? Could the council send out a later explaining this - yes

Community – Would be great to work/link with the church next door ad build up a relationship with the new nursery. We need to let them know we are there and can help if needed,

Connect – If we sign up, we get great insurance for events and lots of advice and courses. It will cost £122 per year. We get basic insurance coverage with NLC but with the added benefit’s of connect, worthwhile joining. Everyone agrees.

Fundraising - CM suggested meeting up somewhere to try and organize fundraising within covid guidelines. Far easier to discuss all our ideas face to face. Gemma suggested Ravenscraig as an idea as possible private space for meetings and possible discounts. Also, this will leave time for usual business on our meetings.

Fiona was hoping someone could take on board getting quotes for the work to the Ash Park. Suzanne offered to speak to a friend, landscaper for ideas and prices.

Fiona Easton thanked Gayna for the balloons.

Next steps –

Claire - Letter to send to parents.

Suzanne - to get quote for Ash Park

Thank you to the school for everyone in the school for last year, it wasn’t all negative.