

## Parent Council Meeting/AGM Minutes : 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019

**Present:** Mrs Ross (Head Teacher), Miss Young (Principal Teacher), Jo Speed (Chair), Fiona Kerr (Treasurer), Dominic Edwards, Helena Carey, Sarah Dove, Silvia Lauder, Becca MacRae, Rachel Beaton, Rebecca Davidson (Minute Taker)

**Apologies:** Carla Geddes, Clare Janse

### Headteacher Report

#### School Improvement Plan

This will be available in full on the Braco school app or can be provided by email to request. Two main priorities have been identified for Braco School:

1. *To increase children's engagement in learning by developing awareness and understanding of their own and personal social skills.*
2. *Improved quality of learning writing and enhanced understanding of their strengths and development needs through high quality feedback from peers, teachers and parents/carers.*

Universal and targeted strategies are identified and explained within the detailed report. Mrs Ross has kindly agreed to source a glossary or explanation of some of the terms which may not be obvious or familiar to everyone on the request of one of the parents.

#### Staffing update:

P1/P2 Mrs Champion

P3/4 Miss Young (Mrs Digance Thursdays)

P5,6,7 Miss Green (Mr Lee Fridays)

Mrs Ross will provide cover to teachers for their reduced class contact time

Mrs Gilles, Miss Lamb, Mrs Le Cornu will provide teaching support

Mrs Gibson will be the pupil support teacher

Mrs McGaffney music teacher

#### Refurbishment:

The hall works have been challenging but the hall was ready at the beginning for school lunches. Boys toilets should be ready later this week, with girls toilets ready shortly afterwards.

School refurbishment: Mrs Ross is waiting to hear back from Mr Andrew Davidson at Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) in regard to a date to discuss the planned refurbishment.

## **Community Vandalism**

Police are aware of incidents and are patrolling when able. They have asked all members of the community to be vigilant and to report anything they see in a timely manner ie asap with details of description, time and dates etc.

## **Excursions/Visits 2019-2020**

- Sky Academy P5-7 Bus
- Our Dynamic Earth: Natural Disasters P3/4 Bus/Workshop
- KNex: workshops for maths week £75 and £85 plus travel expenses

## **Seesaw**

This is a digital learning journal which will be for parents/carers to access at home either through IPADS or mobile phones. Parents will be contacted with notifications when photographs or their child or their work is available to see. Parents will be able to make positive comments on their child's work/progress and this will be used instead of the usual large jotters. As well as providing information in a timely manner, this will reduce time and money spent on photocopying and paper and reduce storage. Parents will be able to print work off the app. Parents who cannot access this app easily from home will be able to access them through identified times at school and may be able to apply to the Ardoch Development Trust with support from the teaching staff for grants for technology. The Seesaw app will be developed over time and discussed more fully through a forthcoming parent curriculum evening.

## **IPads**

Mrs Ross has identified the need for more IPads within the school. These are not currently being funded by Perth and Kinross Council. There was a discussion within the meeting regarding the fact that Apple IPADS are expensive but Perth and Kinross Council currently state that tablets used must be Apple IPADS. There was no immediate decisions made on the funding of more IPads by the Parent Council but this will be considered in a future meeting. Miss Carey will be contacting the Ardoch Development Trust in regard to a grant towards a specific nursery project in outside learning.

## **Treasurers Report**

See attached.

There has been no specific funding provided by Perth and Kinross Council for this new academic year but this should be forthcoming and is generally increasing each year. Main points are:

- The balance remains healthy.
- The Parent Council generally supports requests from the school where possible.
- Bus trips for the 3 composite classes will be funded for class trips.
- The pantomime buses and ice creams will be funded.
- A Halloween disco will be funded.
- Christmas gifts and party will be funded.

## Chair Report

See attached.

### Main points:

- Parking issues around the school have been successfully resolved
- ADT provided funds for the community lantern costs and Ardoch Strings.
- Muthill Kiddie Club now provides transport and help 4 days a week to an increasing number of children from Braco School with after-school care. It has helped parents and families enormously and is well-run and enjoyed by the children.
- Mrs Chalamanda continues to provide support with violin tuition which helps Braco school maintain a strong music ethos.
- Office Bearers: Jo Speed is stepping down from their role of Chair within the Parent Council. Dominic Edwards and Julie Davies stepped down earlier this year from the roles of Secretary and Fundraising Coordinator. Fiona Kerr kindly agreed to remain Treasurer for one further year. The Parent Council meeting wanted to document their thanks for the enormous amount of work which they completed and noted how much it has been appreciated.
- A request was made for new parents/carers to volunteer for the vacant positions.
  - **Becca MacRae** was nominated and seconded to be **Chair**
  - **Rachel Beaton** was nominated and seconded to be **Secretary**
  - **Sylvia Lauder** was nominated and seconded to be the **Fundraising Co-ordinator**.
- It was widely agreed that the coming academic year would be important in terms of the school remaining proactive in pursuing the planned school transformation. Different options of days and times were surveyed recently and most parents asked for Mondays at 6-7pm. Occasional meetings may take place outside these hours as required. Miss Carey suggested that it may be possible for parents with Protecting Vulnerable Groups clearance to offer a one-off games group for children to be cared for during a meeting if any meetings held at 3pm after school on a Monday.

### Next steps:

- Mrs Ross will provide the Parent Council with a 'wish list' for funding.
- A village jumble sale is planned in the Braco Village Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> September where the Parent Council will host a stand overseen by Silvia. More details to come.
- There is an informal WhatsApp group which all parents/carers are encouraged to join - just ask the Parent Council Office bearers and we can add you to the group. This helps support decisions which need to be made with parent council funds outside of planned meetings and also supports fund-raising events. All welcome to join but you do need to give your phone details to do this.
- A suggestion was made to determine whether we could ask Tesco to help support future school developments may be made following the planned school refurbishments.
- All pupils will be provided with examples of items which can be ordered as Christmas gifts to help support the school later in the term. This was hugely beneficial for the school this year.