

Straiton Primary School Parent Council Meeting
Wednesday 10th June 2020
On Zoom

Sederunt: J. Williams (secretary), C-A. Dunlop (treasurer), K. Kidd (chair), L. McCandlish (head teacher), E. Carroll, G. Bacon, A. Hardy, S. Agnew, B. Connolly (councillor).

1 Welcome and apologies

Karen welcomed everyone to the meeting. She said that since there are no answers to opening or staffing these topics would not be discussed.

Apologies had been received from S. Rowden.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

So much has changed since the meeting in February that much was no longer relevant. Carol-Anne approved the minutes.

3 Matters arising

Any matters arising would be dealt with during the course of the meeting.

4 Correspondence

Nothing pertinent. A survey is being done to find out about parents' preferences for opening hours for the new school year.

5 Head teacher's report

a) Staffing for session 2020/21 has still to be confirmed but will be in place by the last week of term.

b) Re-opening – The over-riding issue is the health and safety of pupils, staff and the community. Planning documents and required risk assessments have to be submitted to SAC for approval by 12th June. All logistical arrangements will be shared when approval has been granted.

c) Transition – No S1 physical transition will take place but on-line packs will be available.

d) Roll for August is 10 pupils but hope for increase.

e) The whole experience has been a steep learning curve and Liz expressed her immense gratitude to staff for their creativity. Over the summer work may have to be done in the school to make it ready for the new term.

6 Straiton Primary during Covid-19

Home schooling and technical support

The questions were asked: What is the PC role in this? Can the PC support any family in need of technical assistance?

Liz replied that SAC was offering support for learners. An audit of support needs is to be completed for 15th June.

Transition years

Concerns were expressed about what was going to happen. E.g. pupils did not know what house they would be in.

Liz said that it was dependent on e.g. transport and social distancing. Discussions are still on-going. Everyone is working flat out to have everything in place. She gave the example of what was involved at Kirkmichael Primary with the new intake. Only one child and parent can be invited in at a time.

Brian replied that management is to work with transport etc. He also remarked that extra staffing would cost £750,000 but where will the money come from?

7 Funds

There is approximately £134 in the bank account.

The money for the residential trip to Lockerbie had been paid before the crisis but it is recognised that it is secured for rebooking next year so not lost. If there are not as many pupils next year then the extra will be refunded.

Money had also been paid out for playground equipment which has not yet arrived, but will be somewhere in the system.

8 Fund raising

Nothing can be put in place at this time.

£192.76 has been raised for the Ayrshire Hospice. Jen will send it on.

9 Parent Council membership and office bearers

The next meeting will be the AGM in September when Karen will step down as chair. Andy is willing to take on the position of chair but made the point that he cannot always attend the meetings. He suggested speaking to Isla with a view to sharing the role of chair.

An e-mail will be sent to all members explaining the situation and seeking nominations for office bearers.

Brian, too, is willing to take on the role of chair and agreed that the position could be a shared one.

AOCB

Andy said that he takes his hat off to teachers for what they are doing at this time.

The hoodies for the pupils who will be going to Carrick Academy had been ordered but they too are somewhere in the system.

It was agreed that the end of term could be celebrated through a Zoom meeting arranged by the Parent Council. Karen thanked all for attendance and reiterated that the PC will support what needs to be done.

Date of next meeting: AGM Wednesday 16th September 2020

Jeanette Heggs

Minute taker 10th June 2020