

Stow Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 10th September 2024

Present: Sammy Miller, Donna McIvor, Ruth Leckie, Marion Healey-Smith, Rosie Alliston, Magda Robertson, Joanne McBeath, Finlay Hetherington, Katie Birchall, Julie Wood, Lindsay Easter, Laura Weir, Alex Cornes, Niome Graham, Rosslyn Fleming, Claire Hewitt, Vicky Stirling, Jess Day, Eleanor Dearden, Jenny Bonnar, Christine L, Matty Sutton, Victoria Cassidy

Apologies: Kat Custard

	Actions	Responsibility
Welcome and Introductions - MHS		
Thank you to everyone coming along. Today is about introducing new faces to the committee if they want to become part of the committee. Parent Council as it stands will be up for election. Informal AGM as today is, new office bearers can come forward and will be formally put in place at the next meeting. Focus last year was very much about the headship for the school. From a PC perspective it would be great to get back on track to focus on the work of the PC. Whoever takes on the roles in the PC it will be their decision to take forward the issues that are decided upon for this year by the new team and new parent body. Chairs are keen to move on as have been in position for a number of years and now is the time to move forward and work with the headteacher and to refocus on working together as a strong team.		
Updates from HT - MR		
Managed to purchase new clever touch boards through a grant from Virgin money so no need to worry about projectors. The same board will be purchased from the grant from the parent council through Foundation Scotland. This is a greatly appreciated resource and support from parents. Also purchased the new books that have arrived today and the online subscription was activated today with parents activating pupil accounts today.		

Also running out of storage space, so have bought a container that will be coming next week. Shared with the PC that have organised a website for the school. This will be for policies and general information. Staffing now, three full-time teachers, Mrs Green, Mrs Waddell, Mrs Leckie. Mrs Harkness is taking leave to support her family so will be recruiting for her position. Joanne McBeath is also being employed on a temporary basis.

Magda sent out a poll to parents about how school will work together with the headteacher asking why I like Stow Primary School because and how could we make the school even better?

Three responses were received, two of which were positive and one was fairly negative.

As a teacher and headteacher the second response was hurtful and upsetting. It questioned accountability for spending which MR has been open about and there are strict rules for spending. MR has also been to different sources for funding.

Support staff in classrooms and playground. There is limited funding for schools for this element.

Communication, respondent stated that communication is poor. Nobody came to MR with issues. Open communication is part of process at school.

Routines, the class teachers are the first point of call.

Honesty about staff and their experience was questioned. Not sure what the individual is asking for here.

Allocation of the government allocation of PE hours, SG states there are two hours of PE allowance in Scotland.

Higher achievement questioned. Stow does well but it's not just the teachers, as parents we also need to be our part to help our children succeed.

Respondent also questioned childcare provision. However, this is not the role of the school. This is the responsibility of the parent. This issue needs to be raised at local authority level. Mrs Currie is retiring at the end of the year and there is concern that SBC will not allow additional provision of hours that will enable a new member of staff let alone a breakfast club for school children. If PC wants to address this provision, the school is available for this but would need to be for the parents to provide this. MHS – best option would be to set up a sub-group to address this. Breakfast club as it exists is only for primary school age children and not nursery as this would then come under the care inspectorate. Mrs Currie is wanting to retire in January. There is a council wide freeze on any spending. NG – likely that come Christmas there may not be a breakfast club MR – took on board parent feedback for earlier start for nursery but this will need to stop at Christmas as there is no budget for the additional time. There is no more budget After and before school provision is responsibility of private providers. Breakfast clubs can be provided for families with need for this support. In some schools the provision requires parents to be there as well. In other schools ANA supervision of children is the case. Letter has been sent to parents to let them know that the additional 15 minutes at nursery ends in January. Encourage parents to organise childcare in light of this change.	Will resend email requesting	MR
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Will resend email requesting feedback tomorrow as several parents have not seen the email. CH – asked if emails could be clearer with reference to signposting that a response is required. VS -asked if forms could be sent as PDF to enable ease of reading on mobile devices Not clear how ANA allocation will be going forwards. Could be that ANA will be allocated to the cluster and hours allocated accordingly. ASN register completed today to try to gain additional hours. MHS – this is just the start of cuts that will be coming. As a parent council we need to be savvy about what we campaign for and what we can support and help with. MR – as parents need to get together and lobby at local authority level. MHS – can also join together with other PCs to gain momentum. This again could be another sub-group for the PC. ASN provision is a key issue for schools.	feedback tomorrow as several parents have not seen the email. MR will look at headers of emails. MR will do this	MR
Sub groups		
Will need to get a number of sub groups together on the areas that are prioritised through new PC.		
Kids club update - JW		
Kids club will also close at Christmas unless there is something done before then. AGM is 23 rd September. Group call email will be sent out regarding this. Also need a new chair. Have spaces in the kid's club until Christmas. The kid's club is registered with the care inspectorate and can run all the care provision at different times if staff can be found to serve these. Can't run these without support from parents to keep the club going. It is currently run by a parent committee. The work form this needs to be spread		

amongst more parents. Private provision is possible but would increase costs for parents.		
Office Bearer Positions		
Past few years have had a Chair and Co-Chair which is a much better way to divide the amount of work. Vicky Stirling is keen to take on the role of Secretary. Treasurer role, not a huge task and currently have £7,000 in the account. MHS propose Jess and Niome as chair and co-chair. MHS will organise and handover. There are different options for treasurer role. Straight forward role of treasurer. Accounts are the responsibility of the parent forum and parent body, staff, children – all need to be involved in how the money comes in and goes out. Next meeting will be to organise another meeting to set the ongoing agenda of how the PC will move forward. Parents will need to be informed of the new office bearers and how to contact the PC.		
Foundation Scotland Grant		
Awarded just under £4000 to contribute towards to a smart board, head phones and the online library subscription over the next three years. MR – The online library will give a reading corner library for children to read whatever they choose. Library can be logged in on any device. Teachers will be setting homework on the app. It is about keeping up with reading fluency and understanding. FH – asked if books could be purchased in hard copy if they want to. MR – can provide the website details. Pearson book club is the organisation.		

MR – issue we have is that there are not enough books to send home to read. This is the reason the school went forward with this route. The school wants to support the children as best as we can. School told this week that there is no printing allowed now due to cost. Children will be assessed regularly and their book bands will be allocated accordingly. The online library is updated regularly but not completely sure if the books are also in print. MS – is there a policy of how much time is spent on screen time? MR – This is a SG led policy to include digital learning in the curriculum. Teachers will also share with parents the level their child is on and the title of the book can be added to showbie as well if parents wish to try to buy hard copy books. RL – not all work is done on the Ipad, there is an element of digital learning but the jotter work is still vitally important for essential skills to be developed. MS – is the reason the Ipad are being used due to cost of other forms of learning or because of the benefits. MR – digital learning is promoted across the world. Paper books, printing adds additional costs into the learning. I pads are being recycled across the school years as new models are rolled out. RF – what happened to the P1 books from last year? MR – there are only three copies of each book. Ideally the school needs six copies of each book. MHS – Parent council could support the school with purchase of books to support the school with this. MR – online library increases choice with lesser costs. MHS – we can review this issue in the next meeting and take it forward then,		
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