

Burra Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting of Burra Parent Council held on Vscene (online) on 2nd September 2020

Present: Kay Anderson
Jennifer Nicolson
Carole Smith

In attendance: Helen Robertson (Head Teacher)
Zuzanna O'Rourke (Clerk)

Apologies: Julia Halcrow, Louise Poleson, Ashley Ritch, Kate Anderson, Amy Williamson

- **Approve Minutes of meeting held on 14th May 2020**
Minutes from PC meeting on 14th May proposed by Jennifer and seconded by Kay.

- **Business arising:**
 1. School Improvement Plan for the whole year - Helen
This term focus is on Resilience and Recovery following the coronavirus lockdown with priorities on Literacy, Numeracy and H&W.
Literacy: whole school spelling programme – working with small groups of pupils;
Numeracy: Maths Tracker – used to track pupils' progress from Early Level until the end of Broad General Education phase (S3). SEAL Maths for additional support.
Digital Learning
H&W: Zones of Regulation throughout the school - emotional literacy scheme. Rolled out one class at a time, shared with parents via Dojo. Initial feedback positive.

2. Staffing - Helen:
Two new Support for Learning staff members: Alexis Anderson and Melanie Laurenson. New P3/4 teacher starting Thursday 10th September: Mr Phil Allman.
3. Fundraising – Kay:
Due to the Covid pandemic we weren't able to hold our annual coffee morning and school funds are quite low (around £400). Previously raised funds have been spent on technology, which proved very useful as all new laptops were made available for families during lockdown.
Funds are needed to improve school grounds for outdoor learning. Need for creative thinking in an era when community members can't access the school and large gatherings are not possible. Helen suggested a sponsored cycle based on children taking up individual challenges. Possible timescale – Bike Safety Week starting 28th September.
4. Spelling and phonics – Helen:
Renewed emphasis on spelling as assessments showed that many pupils have forgotten the spelling rules over the lockdown. Highland Literacy spelling scheme followed throughout the school. Plenty of active learning.
5. Outdoor learning and equipment – Helen:
Pupils are being asked for suggestions regarding outdoor play equipment. So far ideas include raised beds for planting, swings and slides. Outdoor play subgroup to be formed to take plans forward: school email to be sent out to all parents looking for volunteers. Also looking for donations of equipment such as fish boxes, fish nets etc.
Murals to be re-designed in term 3 and re-painted in term 4.
6. Parental communication – Helen:
Suggestion to go paperless. Communication via email and Dojo. All letters to be available on the school website (this needs to be promoted on Dojo as parents would not necessarily look at the website).
7. Removal of the cattle grid – Julia (via Messenger):
Cattle grid a safety hazard, especially for cyclists. Helen to take it up with Safety and Risk to conduct a proper assessment and Kay to contact SIC on behalf of the PC. Gate not needed either.
8. Parents' comments – Kay:
 - a. Kay asked that the PC express their appreciation of all the hard work school staff have done over the lockdown and on return to school.
 - b. Some parents are worried about the risk of coronavirus being transferred via homework or school/ library books. Helen explained that

books are quarantined for 72 hours and there is no sharing of equipment. More info to follow.

- c. Kay suggested creating a Facebook page for the PC to better communicate with the Parent Forum. Helen pointed out that this would need to be a secret group (i.e. invitation only). PC members to decide at next meeting.
- d. Kay also pointed out that parents might need to be reminded that they can contact any PC member to voice their opinions and concerns. This is to be done by email and Dojo.

9. AOCB:

Helen: uniform wearing in decline this term. Jumpers to be purchased for all staff members to reinforce enthusiasm for uniforms.

Date of next meeting – tbc (November).

Date of AGM to be set via Messenger

Meeting closed at 8.10