

Mid Yell Junior High School Parent Council 23 January 2024

Present - T. Fraser (Chair), M Lawson, M Coutts, K Wood, J Thomson (vice-chair), V Johnson, J Lyth (clerk), J Kelman, L Cunningham

1. Apologies - L Tulloch, K Brown
2. Minutes from the last meeting
3. Matters arising - there were no matters arising.

4. Head Teachers Report

Weather Issues

- Very disrupted start to this term
- Concious of impact on learning despite trying to provide work for home for most classes. Prefer this not to cause any stress to bairns or parents. If pupils are not engaging they can catch up when back at school. Some bairns enjoy online learning but some really don't.
- Study classes and other opportunities will need to be utilised to the fullest by S4 in particular
- How was communication? PC discussed the problems, some not knowing work was available, ML suggested that the staff who are phoning parents in the morning could mention work on Teams etc.

Staffing

- Chelsea Thomson and Anne-Karine Strachan are both back from maternity leave, Chelsea is still only in two out of her three days as she has some additional days to use up.
- We have been unable to recruit a new PE teacher despite trying 4 times - This has been a struggle for the school to cover. The local authority agreed to make the post full time but that still did not attract any interest. We will now be looking to recruit a PE instructor for the short term. In the meantime have made use of SRT staff, Active schools staff, various visiting specialists and other willing coaches but it is far from ideal. We have managed to get the support of Mrs Ruth Fletcher 2 days per week to help with primary PE and some other things.
- Following the resignation of Mrs Emily Tulloch we have started the recruitment process for a new teacher of science. We did this as quickly as we could and have identified two suitable candidates whom we are interviewing next week. In the meantime we have been supported two days a week by Mrs Lynsay Cunningham, she has been with us every Monday and Tuesday.
- Louise Nicholson is now in post as our new Pupil Support teacher and she is doing a great job. Good feedback from bairns.

Budgets

- These continue to be very tight but with some careful spending we should be just about on track.
- We were successful with our tesco application for money towards the breakfast club and fruit, this can supplement the money that the parent council raise so successfully.
- We have had to source alternative funding to support some of the additional PE activities, the LA found a solution to that.

School Improvement Plan

- Raising Attainment in Literacy - reading school award scheme, Improve reading for understanding, evaluating and analysing, participate in national writing project
- Developing Health & Well Being - Introducing the See Me, See Change programme, refresh school mentoring programme, Develop H & WB progression framework, Review annual PSHE offer.
- Developing partnerships - Audit, evaluate, develop and embed partnerships across the school community in order to enhance the capacity of the school to support our young people and their families - like a parent member to help us move forward.
- Also still developing - UNCRC, Eco schools and play pedagogy.

School Trips

- S2 visited the Power Station, LEF and Shetland College in November
- S3 Chemist students are visiting Scalloway UHI lab and the lab at Sullom tomorrow
- Individual pupils going to various vocational training events, NHS, engineering, etc
- Primary and Secondary pupils accessed the film festival at Mareel

Transitions

- Started on enhanced transitions for young people coming and going from our school in the next year
- We are planning mainstream transition activities for next term - following more or less the same plan as the previous year!
- Mr Barney Redman and Mr Nick McCaffrey from AHS will be here to meet S4 pupils this week
- S4 pupils interested in going to the AHS will be offered an over night stay this term.

Christmas Period

- Very successful shopping night - raised £1213 for the school, great atmosphere, many thanks to Jackie Guthrie who organised this
- We had the busiest Senior Citizens Dinner we have ever had in the school and got a lot of very positive feedback. [This was a great inter-generational event, enjoyed by all.](#)
- Successful Christmas show, giving the young people a great experience performing in public
- Community Carol Singing also got a great deal of praise and was much appreciated
- Frustrations over the school dance being cancelled - we are trying to arrange that for this Thursday

Other Items

- Occasional Holiday - Monday 27th May
- Intergenerational Music project - a great success, lots of good work which pushed the pupil's communication skills
- S1/2 pupils involved in Peat restoration project
- On the 21st February we have a Visit from Kylie Watson, attainment advisor to review our levels of attainment and the work we do to try and raise these.
- We will be welcoming the Jarl Squad on Thursday 22nd February in the afternoon
- Our new mandarin teacher Yanan Zou will be working in our school this week as we start a blended model of delivering mandarin lessons.

5. **Fundraising**

- The powerball was a great success raising £1000 for the fruit and breakfast club. This was relatively quick & simple to do, far easier than the teas at the regatta and tall ships and raised more money. Discussed possibly doing another one in the summer. We also did the Christmas hamper raffle at the shopping night, this raised a further £271.

6. **A.O.C.B** -

- With no further business the meeting ended at 6.45pm

Date of next meeting: TBC