

Mid Yell Junior High School Parent Council 30 April 2024

Present - T. Fraser (Chair), M Lawson, L Tulloch, V Johnson, J Lyth (clerk), J Kelman

1. Apologies - M Coutts, K Brown, K Wood, J Thomson, L Cunningham
2. Minutes from the last meeting
3. Matters arising - Tammie read over the minutes from the previous meeting, no matters arising as any updates would be covered.
4. Head Teachers Report

Staffing

- We are delighted to welcome Mr Adam Fulton to the post of PE teacher,
- We have now tried to recruit to the post of Home Economics teacher twice without any success. We will now look into the option of having an instructor in this post being supported by a teacher from another school.
- Kirsty has reduced her hours and we will be looking to recruit an ELC Practitioner for one day per week.
- Jenna has also reduced her hours for this term, this will be covered internally.

Budgets

- Last financial years final budget figure was £471.27 underspend, including the ELC budgets (Some of these budgets are 'ring fenced' or £750.05 overspend if you just look at Primary and secondary.
- There is a payment which has still to come in that would bring this back to a £50 underspend.
- This year we have a budget of :-
 - ELC – Not Confirmed Yet
 - Primary - £2420 (£1960 in 2023, up by £460)
 - Secondary - £3925 (£4850 in 2023, down by £925)
 - Exam Fees - £3171 (£3171 in 2023, same as 2023)
 - PEF – Not Confirmed Yet
 - In total it looks like it will be a decrease of £465
- We will need to be sourcing other funding to maintain the same service.

School Improvement Plan

- Raising Attainment in Literacy The school has made good progress towards becoming a 'Reading School', the primary classes have participated in the national developing writing programme.
- Developing Health & Well Being – Staff have had training in the See Me, See Change programme, we have refreshed school mentoring programme and there has been a Review of the annual PSHE offer in secondary classes. We still need to firmly embed the H& WB progression framework and continue to roll out the See Me, See Change programme to pupils, parents and community – also still work to do in promoting a more nurturing ethos.
- Developing partnerships – we now have a good idea of where our partnerships are and how we can use them to support learning and teaching. We still need to further develop the partnerships with parents and community members to encourage people back into school.
- Also still developing – UNCRRC, Eco schools and play pedagogy.

School Trips

- Santander Bank visited S1 & S2 to work with them in Maths & English – DYW
- Lauren Smith, literacy adviser was here to work with primary on our writing project
- S4 Visited the careers event in Lerwick
- Jarl Squad visited the school and were impressed with the bairns squads
- Dynamic earth were here with their planetarium which was a very exciting visit

- Inter Faith Scotland came to visit the school and shared some of the basic similarities and differences between some of the world's most popular religions, this was a great experience for our young people.
- Our primary pupils participated in the music festival at Mareel
- Our S3 pupils have arranged their own trips to visit the charities that they are researching for their YPI presentations.
- The Art Bus visited the school to share some thought provoking work with our pupils

Transitions

- S4 – AHS transition has been underway for a while now, they have visited the school and had a sleep over at the hostel, they have met with staff from both settings and are ready for moving down there at the end of the month.
- P7 – S1 – this group have set up an online 'team', they have had a few activities with their secondary teachers on Thursday afternoons, they are visiting each other's primary schools and will have two days as Secondary 1 pupils on the 11th & 12th June.
- Nursery to Primary 1 transition starts tomorrow, with these 4 bairns going in to the lower primary class for the first part of the morning..... this will continue over the next few weeks. During this time the Primary 4 pupils will go to work in the upper primary room as they will be next school year.
- Graduation ceremonies will be on Thursday 20th June for Nursery and Friday 21st June for Primary 7
- S4's leaver's dinner will be on Friday the 21st June

Other Items

- Occasional Holiday – Monday 27th May
- Internet safety & Sextortion warning
- Sad to see that Shetland College will no longer be accessing the school on a Wednesday afternoon/evening
- School Photos – proofs should be emailed out this week or next
- Exams are underway, verifier is coming to see Woodwork, invigilators, etc in place
- Yell –V- Unst day still to be arranged
- BookFair is on Thursday 16th May
- New timetable is starting on Monday 20th May – usual difficulties in trying to give everyone their first choices but Susan is working hard to make it all fit in.
- Spaceport visit for S1- 3 this month
- Yell Primary sports on Thursday 20th June – P.M.
- Mid Yell – School Sports – Monday 24th June
- School Open Evening – Tuesday 25th June – DISCUSS
- End of term reward days – 27th & 28th June

End of Headteachers Report

Further to HT report:

- Tammie expanded on the reading schools that the Men's Shed are building some outdoor reading nooks for the school and that a reading survey had been sent out to all parents. 16 replies were received so far.
- Facebook posts - parents would like to see more of these.
- Careers events - Parents would like to see more careers events and businesses coming into the school to talk about opportunities and careers within their businesses.
- Intergenerational learning - The residents of Isleshavn & the school bairns get a lot out of visiting the care centre during Wider Achievements, look into increasing this activity.

- It was noted that when the Jarl Squad visited, some parents went and watched the squads in the school hall, this was not the intended action and was just a case of timing. The Jarl squad finished in the nursery then went down stairs, some of the parents then followed them. To keep it fair, members felt it should be open either to all parents or to none.

5. Dinners

The parent council has received some comments from parents about the school dinners;

- One parent had asked if the secondary pupils could be staggered going to lunch, changing the order of which secondary classes went first - this was mainly requested because of the lack of choice if you are at the back of the queue.
- The other correspondence was about the quantity that was served, some bairns going home hungry and the lack of choice, especially if you are near the end of the queue.
- A pre-ordering system for school meals will be introduced around the end of August, this should put an end to this problem. In the meantime, Tammie will write to Louise Smith with the concerns and will also ask if the bairns can be consulted with any possible tweaking of the menu choices.

6. Fundraising for Trips - we have provisionally booked Loch Insh for May 2025 for P6/P7. This is a very expensive trip so we will need to start fundraising for this. Members felt that doing another Powerball would be a good idea. It was decided to get this going very quickly to be able to do the draw at the end of year open evening and make 400 tickets as this would give 10 tickets per family.

7. A.O.C.B -

- With no further business the meeting ended at 7.30pm

Date of next meeting: Thursday 29 August 2024, this will be the AGM