

Mid Yell Junior High School Parent Council AGM 12 September 2023

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

1. Apologies - D Mallett, E Reay, L Smith, K Brown, L Cunningham, J Kelman
2. Appoint new members -
 - Members eligible to stand down are: M Coutts (staff member), S Saunders, M Saunders, V Johnson, T Fraser, L Smith. L Smith happy to stay on as a community member
 - New member added: K Wood, L Tulloch, A Sheach, J Kelman, K Brown
 - There are no co-opted members.
3. Appoint Chairperson and Vice Chairperson - Jill Thomson nominated Tammie Fraser as Chairperson, Vicky Johnson seconded. Tammie Fraser nominated Jill Thomson as Vice-chair, Karen Wood seconded.
4. Minutes from the last AGM - were distributed before the meeting as a reminder, these were approved.

5. Head Teachers Report

Staffing

- We have been unsuccessful yet again at recruiting a primary teacher for Chelsea's maternity leave, Chelsea is due to return after the October holidays and is currently coming in 1 day a week to get back into the swing of things.
- Gwen Johnson has returned to her early years worker post - this has left a few of her old posts vacant - Laura Turner and Jenna Smith are covering these on a temporary basis. The posts will be advertised in the next few weeks.
- We have been unable to recruit a new PE teacher despite trying twice - in the meantime we are using SRT and Active School staff to open up some good quality programmes for our pupils. We will try again to advertise the post.
- We were allocated a newly qualified probationer teacher of Home Economics but they pulled out from the post. June Ward has kindly agreed to cover another year for us.... I am extremely grateful to her.
- Alfie Lawson has completed his first year of his modern apprentice course, ELC and has moved on to Mossbank nursery class. Mary Rosie has moved the other way and joins us for the next year.
- We have been successful in recruiting Louise Nicholson as our new PT pupil support - she should be taking up these additional responsibilities in the next few weeks.

Budgets

- Some of the budgets for this financial year have just been allocated we will get :-
 - £1,960 for primary a drop of £515 from last year
 - £4,850 for secondary, a drop of £70
 - £20,150 - PEF funding - £5,500 carried over from last year
 - £825 Nursery materials, £1,438 Scottish Milk & Healthy Snack, £647 top up snackLooking at alternative sources of funding for various items and projects will continue to be an important part of HT role in next year
- Tesco grant applied for - Breakfast club - selected - in store now.

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 Improvement Team Visit - Feb 2023

- There were many positives highlighted and a few things to be working on.
- Confident, polite and welcoming children and young people, who are a credit to the school, and are mostly able to discuss their learning articulately and clearly.
- Respectful, supportive and positive relationships between children and young people and with their teachers and support staff.
- Young people are actively involved in the life of the school and feel empowered with leadership roles.
- Approaches to learning and teaching, including the development of play pedagogy, and relationships and communication within the Early Learning and Childcare setting are an emerging strength in the school. This forms a good foundation for building upon these approaches in early primary.
- Approaches to digital learning are increasingly embedded, particularly in the secondary department. The biggest disappointment from the initial feedback was the communication with families which was seen to be very poor -
- As a priority, there is a need to strategically develop approaches to communication, engagement and relationship building with parents and carers, working closely with the school's parent forum.
- There is a need to develop whole school approaches to enable staff to highlight concerns about individual children, and consider, collaboratively, support mechanisms for children, recognising the role of the classroom teacher with responsibility for all learners in their class, and ensuring the school's Additional Support Needs Department are appropriately involved.
- Continue to work towards greater consistency in respect of learning and teaching across the school, referring to, and further embedding, learning and teaching frameworks, including the school's 'Good Lesson Journey', and sharing good practice, noted during the Team Improvement Visit, around welcoming learners, lesson starters, approaches to active and independent learning and plenaries.
- A whole school approach to tracking children and young people's health and wellbeing, shaped with learners, staff and parents and carers.
- A less bureaucratic approach to tracking and monitoring more generally, involving and empowering staff throughout the process, and learners wherever possible.
- Facilitate more opportunities for all staff to meaningfully input into a clearer approach to whole school self-evaluation, monitoring, quality assurance and school improvement planning, and further develop leadership opportunities at all levels within the school.

SQA Results

- Very high standards maintained again. We are awaiting a full break down and analysis of the results and how we compare to other schools but when we look at individual results we feel they were good.
- We will be asking each department to look at their results and identify any areas that can be improved upon.

School Trips

- P6 & 7 Trip to Loch Insh was a great success
- S1 & S2 trip to Glasgow was also a great success
- A great deal of thanks to all sponsors, parents and pupils who managed to raise the funding required for these trips.
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Transitions

- Nursery to primary transitions seem to have been very successful with all our new P1 children in full days earlier than previous years..
- Primary 7 to S1 (13 pupils) - Seem to have settled in well, busy in classes and have planned their S1 overnight stay for next week

- Secondary 4 to AHS & other destinations - again we have a range of destinations being followed by our old S4 class - AHS, College, Apprentices, world of work, etc

Other Items

- Occasional Holiday - to be decided on
- UNISON/UNITE - strike action
- School Grounds Committee - Needs to get up and running
- Shopping Night - 30th November - fundraising ideas?????

6. Chairperson's report.

The last year has been eventful and busy. The Parent Council appreciate all that happens in school and we are very thankful to all the staff and pupils for continuing to make a Mid Yell JHS a high achieving, vibrant school with a very welcoming atmosphere. For Parents/guardians and other family members it has been excellent getting back in to school for events. It certainly feels like the school is back to normal.

There have been a few fundraising initiatives this year at the Mid Yell regatta, Sail Yell and coffee morning. With the money raised, the PC continues to support the school with providing fruit to all the children and have started helping with the Breakfast Club. All though the fundraising went well, it took a bit of organising and I would like to say a big thank you to those that helped in any way.

The continued support of families and the community not only helps us as a committee but the school as a whole, so thanks go to all and we look forward to future events that we can all get involved with.

7. Treasurers Report

Last financial year we began with £3,274.22 in the bank at 1.4.22 and £369.18 in the fruit cash tin. We didn't get a grant from SIC as they told us that we could only claim for actual printing costs for the meetings so we ended up paying £262.66 back to SIC as an underspend on the previous years grant. We closed the year at 31.03.23 with £3,066.26 in the bank and £183.51 in the cash tin.

The cost of fruit for the school academic year from Aug 22 - Jul 23 was £819.19 (slightly lower than the previous year). We have had a couple of good fundraisers this summer. The Regatta bottle stall raised £130, teas at open night £224.54 and the stall at tall ships raised £316.23. The 100 club didn't raise so much this year as the cost of the tickets was lowered to £10 while the prizes remained the same. However, the prize money for any unsold tickets that were drawn was put back into the fruit fund.

You will see on the current year accounts that we got a grant from SCBF, this was specifically for the school trips, the school couldn't apply for it but the Parent Council could, so this was just transferred straight to the trip account.

The current financial position is:

Bank balance £3,066.26 of which £1,986.82 is ring fenced for the fighting fund, £330 for fruit, leaving a general fund of £749.44 and a further £575.87 in the fruit cash tin, although this money can also be used for the breakfast club.

8. Other Items

- Shopping Night 30 November - fundraising for breakfast club and fruit. Tammie suggested doing a powerball this year instead of the 100 club as she has seen this be a

great success with other clubs. Members agreed to give this a try, having 1 or 2 big prizes, to be drawn on the shopping night. Another great success from last year was the hamper raffle at the shopping night, members agreed to do this again.

9. A.O.C.B -

- Occasional holiday - the school has proposed Monday 27th May 2024 as the floating holiday. Members agreed to this.

Date of next meeting: TBC