

Urafirth Primary School

Parent Council Meeting 10th February 2022 18.30 online

Welcome – Wendy Fraser, Craig Nicol, Alison Smedley, Mandie Fulbirg, Anne Margaret Laurenson.

Apologies – Leanne

Agenda

- Introduction of secretary
- Update from head teacher-ELC refurb, quality assurance visit, school improvement plan
- Policy on gun play
- Childcare provision in north mainland-parents opinion
- Structure of funding and accounts-discernment between school funds and parent council/PSA funds.

Introduction to Secretary/Treasurer Mandie Fulbirg was welcomed as the new Secretary/Treasurer by all who attended the meeting.

ELC Refurbishment The refurbishment was going ahead, although last to be carried out, Wendy was delighted to be having the works carried out with no need to move pupils as works could be carried out while pupils were inhouse. Improvements were very much being looked forward to which include 2 sinks at different height for staff and children, dishwasher, equivalent kitchen space in a L shape which will make things so much easier to work with, and new floor. Works would take 5/6 weeks to complete and will be started after the long weekend break.

Quality assurance visit Wendy reported this had been a positive meeting with good feedback, explaining the challenges the staff had overcome during covid/pandemic, agreeing the staff had been well supported. Positive improvements had been made and it was noted that the children were very happy enjoying their fun and freedom.

Improvement plan Play based pedagogy was being encouraged thanks to the parent council Ways of getting the children involved in the aspects of decision making, and outdoor learning was being encouraged, decisions on Freeplay and they're learning environment was also being included. The children's input had been very positive. Small changes were being introduced being mindful of the child's point of view. Wendy informed the meeting that lot of support, and purchases had been made by Hayfield house. Things included art easel, work bench including tools, and indoor blocks which had been gratefully received.

The new outdoor area would be carried out after the easter break with Michael Owers doing the work.

Craig will get in touch with Scottish sea farms about funds as he had not heard from them recently.

Other sources of funding to complete the works had been from Pupil Equity fund holding £2818, Community benefit fund, and there was £500 raised from the school calendar but some of this had been used for school items.

Wendy to send out questionnaire for further improvement ideas to parents.

Gun Policy Wendy was approached about the gun policy and asked the views of those present as such a thing did not exist. It was agreed that it would not be encouraged and would be actively diverted.

Wendy suggested getting the children involved in what makes good play and include gun play within and promote/encourage good play.

Childcare provision There seems to be a lack of childcare in North Mainland after questionnaires were sent out by Sam Flaws. Wendy asked if Brae was a suitable place for childcare, suggesting a bus could be used for transportation but it was suggested to be too far away and childcare would need to be in the area of the child/ren, Using the school or the hall. Wendy to get a breakdown on areas and age groups of where childcare was most needed and update at next meeting

Accounts it was discussed what accounts were held within the school and what their purpose was.

There were 3 accounts held

Parent council, PSA, School fund

It was discussed whether they could be amalgamated to have less, Wendy was keen to have an account that could be used within the school without meeting with parents to get cheques signed. It was then decided that the accounts would need to be clarified looking at the constitution and guidance from Hayfield house. This will be followed up at the next meeting.

AOCB

Leanne suggested that plant cuttings be rooted and sold for school funds.

Wendy suggested taking cuttings from the Fushia that were needing removed for the new outdoor area also.

Wendy informed there were a following 60 trees had been gifted by the Woodland trust to be planted and was keen to get parent involvement to have these planted in school grounds.

Next meeting 5th May 7pm