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| **WHALSAY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL**  **Minutes of the public meeting held on Tuesday 19th November, 2019 in the Secondary Department Meeting Room.**  **Present**:  **Office Bearers**  Carol Ann Reid (CAR) (Chair)  Natalie Constable (Vice Chair)  Leona Jamieson (LJ - Fund Raising)  Moira Dally (MD) Clerk  **Members Staff**  Sarah Anderson (SA) Garry Spence (GS) Head Teacher  Elizabeth Nisbet (EN) Iain MacInnes (IMac)  Odette Anderson (OD) Audrey Polson(AP)  Debbie Saunderson (DB) Pauline Irvine  Angela Cooper (AC) Kathleen Jamieson  Jeni Polson (JP)  Angela Williamson (AW)  Samantha Anderson (SA)  Dianne Goodlad(DG)  **Welcome and Attendees**  The Chair welcomed all attendees and noted there were no apologies.  **Treasurer’s Report**  Members were informed that funds stood at £5,182.05, minus uncashed cheques, bringing the total to £4,565.72 As yet no invoice for the storage container materials purchased by Laurence, earlier in the year, has been received but rough estimate would suggest the cost be £596.70 GS to chase this up again. £789.16 was also credited to the account by Jayne Irvine from the Working Group, which brings the current total to £5351.91  .  **Funding Requests**  Firstly, GS came with a request from Eyvor Irvine which he wanted the PC to consider, -  The Secondary School Trip to Rome, 2020 requires to take four staff members to cover the 34 pupils from P7 – S3 who have signed up. There are only 3 free adult places allocated so funding for an additional adult needs to be found. In addition to this the original quote received for the trip has increased and the organisers do not want to pass this increase on to parents. The request being that the money remaining from the 2018 Christmas Card Deliveries go towards the trip, instead of going to the Parent Council as originally agreed. The members agreed to this request.  The following funding requests were discussed and approved –  Christmas Songs CD and Book – P4/5 - £28.20  Desk Barrier/5 way Headphone splitter/CD Story Collections – P 5/6 £91.22  Number Notion Packs – Whole Primary - £750.00  Supporting the Secondary Christmas Party - £125  Refurbishment – 2 swings – Whole Primary - £97.90  **Approval of previous Minutes 10.09.19**  Minutes were approved by Natalie Constable and Leona Jamieson.  **Matters Arising**  **Cauliflower Cards**  CAR informed the meeting that there had been a good response to this Scheme and it was predicted to bring in a little more money this year.  **School Dinner Changes**  CAR advised the Meeting that it was expected that after Easter the Canteen would be trialling fully, their new Menu, but it was expected that they would be trying some new dishes, beforehand. A maximum limit was being laid down on amounts of processed meats served, and an increase on the menu of fruit and veg.  Someone from the local authority is to meet with the PC to discuss the trials, but currently no date has been set for this.  **AGENDA**  **Christmas Concert**  CAR advised that the dates for the Concert were as follows –  Thursday 12th December 7 pm and Friday 13th at 2 pm. Volunteers to help sell raffle tickets would be required and class reps would need to ask for raffle donations nearer the time.  CAR reminded all that due to illness the Concert was cancelled last year so the PC still has the two hampers which were bought as prizes from last year. CAR to organise the perishable goods for inclusion in the hampers.  **HT/AHT Report** (see separate sheet)  **A.O.C.B.**  **School Attendance Letter**.  EN brought this subject to the table, after it was reported that there was much disquiet from some parents which appeared on Fb after receiving a letter from the school re their child’s attendance which had dipped below 90%, resulting in their child missing out on 10% of their school work. GS said he noted what had been said on Fb but no parent had got in touch with the school directly to discuss, and he asked members to provide him with feedback. IMac said that it was the duty of the school to advise parents, and to wait until the end of the year would be too late. As it was the first time these letters had gone out, members reported that some parents objected to the tone of the letter, and some thought a phone call from the school would have been a better option. GS pointed out that this would be a very time-consuming exercise. He also suggested that some other Shetland schools used this method of providing parents with the information. Others suggestions were that these figures could be discussed at Parents’ Evenings, but again it was pointed out that this would be too later in the school year..  Following on from this issue a concern was raised by CAR that the issuing of attendance awards was potentially a health risk. It was felt that some parents were sending their children to school rather than keeping them off when they might increase the risk of spread of infections such as norovirus. Recommendations regarding pupil absence for when they are unwell should be followed at all times. GS to consider all comments put to him.  **Term Dates**  As usual schools have been given 1 floating day in 2020/21 to set as a local holiday. AW said that the Leisure Centre needed to set their local holiday to match and welcomed the discussion. GS said he did not have the full staff responses to the floating dates put forwards as possibilities, which were –  Tuesday 22nd December, Monday 24th May or any other suggestion. The Meeting voted for Tuesday 22nd December. GS to take this back to staff.  Set dates are as follows – 28th January, 19/22 February and the 21st May.  **Date of Next Meeting**  Date of next meeting was set for Tuesday 11th February 2020, at 5.30pm – Secondary Dept.  .  This being the business the meeting closed at 6.40 pm | **GS**  **CAR**  **GS**  **GS** |
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