

Whalsay School Parent Council

Minute of the meeting held on Thursday 10 February 2022 at 5.30pm in at Whalsay Primary School

Present: Odette Anderson – Chair
Marie Manson – Vice Chair
Anita Sparrow – Clerk
Louise Laurenson
June Thomson
Margaret Leask
Maria Kay
Amanda Williamson
Angela Cooper
Gina Sandison

Staff: Garry Spence
Gail Rainey
Catherine Williamson
Caroline Kay

Apologies: Heather Williamson
Debbie Saunderson

Welcome

Odette welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minute of Last Meeting

The minute of the meeting held on 2 November 2021 was approved by Maria and seconded by Angela.

Matters Arising

School Meals

It was noted that parent pay will remain but the option to opt out on certain days may be an option.

School Transport

The busses going 5 minutes later is working well.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer was not in attendance at the meeting, but had advised that we have £3587.

Funding Request

Requests were approved for darts equipment @ £103 and summer bulbs for £200.

Poly Tunnel Funding Update

Odette advised that the grant application has been accepted. Work will be done by George Magnus Nicolson during the easter holidays. The grant was for £4600, the insurance contributed £1700 and the parent council £1000. Garry passed on his thanks.

HT/DHT Report

Copy of report attached.

Class Rep Questions/Issues

No issues were raised by nursery and primary reps.

Secondary 1 – Parents were keen to get a face to face parents evening. Garry advised that it would take place in term 4 as scheduled.

Secondary 2 – Secondary 2 will have a face to face parents evening following the long weekend. It was noted that subject choices will be discussed with parents.

There was a short discussion about skills for work. Pupils will get a booklet with information and parents will be fully involved.

No issues for the S3 and 4.

Accelerated Reader

Garry had already referred to this in his report. He thanked the parent council for approving the emergency bid for £1500 between meetings. He explained how accelerated reader works and the benefits it provides. Pupils get books suitable for their reading ability; not too hard but still providing a challenge. They have a test after they have completed a book. Parents can go online and see how their child is doing.

Odette said how lucky we are to have this available as not all schools have it. It is something for the parent council to be aware of in the future, as funding will be needed again after the 5 year subscription is up.

Constitution

It was agreed that the constitution needs to be updated. Things to look at include, how we deal with reps quitting before their term is up and how long you serve as a rep. Odette, Amanda,

Anita, Margaret and Maria will meet to look at it in more detail. Reps should pass on any comments they have on the constitution by Thursday 17 February.

Update from Chairs Meeting on 18 November 2021

Odette attended the above meeting online. Something worth noting from it was the Education Reform update from Leanne Moss. The OECD report is available on the Scottish Government website. There is a review into curriculum for excellence. Odette noted that they were proposing cutting teacher contact time to 22 ½ hours. Garry said that teachers have more contact time and not so much prep time but had not picked up on the 22 ½ hours cut.

Robin Calder had spoken about Covid and what communication methods had been most effective. Some thought that a class dojo was easier than glow and teams. This may not be GDPR complaint though.

Carole Smith from Lerwick Police had provided a drugs awareness update to the meeting. There is a problem at the AHS with pupils gathering to consume edible cannabis. It is being disguised as sweets and crisps. Some information on this may be useful for S4 pupils before heading to Lerwick for S5. Odette wondered if the school may want to invite Carole up to speak to pupils.

As there is very little police presence in Whalsay, Garry suggested the new police officer for the isles may be the person to ask about this. Perhaps a parents event may be suitable.

AOCB

None

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 28 April 2022 at 5.30pm in the primary school.