

## **Whalsay School Parent Council**

### **Minute of the meeting held on 28 June 2022 at 5.30pm in at Whalsay Primary School**

**Present:** Odette Anderson – Chair  
Anita Sparrow – Clerk  
Debbie Polson  
Margaret Leask  
Louise Laurenson  
Gina Sandison  
Maria Kay  
Amanda Williamson  
Heather Williamson

**Staff:** Garry Spence  
Lynsey Irvine  
Pauline Irvine

**Apologies:** June Thomson  
Marie Manson  
Caroline Kay

### **Welcome**

Odette welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Minute of Last Meeting**

The minute of the meeting held on 10 February 2022 was approved by Margaret and seconded by Louise.

### **Matters Arising**

Review of the constitution should be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

### **Class Rep Questions/Issues**

#### Primary 1

Debbie was representing primary 1 for Marie. She asked if pupils would be allowed to come inside at the start of the day after summer, instead of being outside in poor weather. Garry advised that all pupils can come in if the weather is bad.

### Primary 3

Maria asked if people dropping off pupils at the start of the day could be reminded not to stop or park on the roundabout. Garry will highlight this again.

Maria asked if any changes could be made at lunch time in relation some pupils eating faster than others. There are problems for both those eating quicker and those who like to take their time. Some pupils are having to wait at the table a while until others finish and those who eat slower are perhaps feeling rushed. Staff advised that they are aware of this, and it is difficult get the balance right for everyone. They will discuss this with pupils and see how best to move forward.

### Primary 4

Gina said that parents in her class feel that lunches are repetitive and there is no great choice. Pupils are going home feeling hungry. It was noted that Beth produced good meals and it was a shame we had to have a standard menu across Shetland.

### Primary 5

Lunches are also an issue for primary 5 parents. They feel that the portions are not big enough.

Parents are concerned that e-mails and information from school comes out on Friday afternoons. This means parents cannot contact the school until Monday. Garry advised that this was not always the case.

### Primary 7

Odette also raised concerns about lunches. She said it was taking healthy eating to the extreme. There is too much fruit and the bairns don't eat it. She felt that fruity Friday was not a good thing and could be causing problems.

Most class reps wanted to raise issues about sports day. This is under a separate item in the minute.

## **Treasurer's Report**

We have £5649.79. Heather said that the Research (fishing boat) will be giving the pc a donation too.

## **Funding Requests**

A funding request was approved for resources for the Queen's jubilee celebrations - £549.29

A funding request was approved for litter pickers for the nursery - @£17.99 x 3

A funding request was approved for secondary pupils in the winning house merit competition having their tea from the Munch Wagon £72.

A funding request was made for hire of the bouncy castle for the winning house in primary - £46. This was approved but it was felt that some type of reward should be given to all primary pupils. Staff will arrange this. Following discussion, it was agreed that no merits should be awarded for anything food related, ie fruity Friday or lunch.

There was a request for push lid bins for outside the primary school. It was questioned whether there may be an alternative source of funding available for this. Pauline will enquire about this. Should no other funding be available the PC will approve the request for £221.25 plus delivery x 2.

## **Sports Day**

There were a lot of negative comments about the recent sports day. It was felt that races were babyish, there was no 'real' races and too many fun races. Whilst understanding the need to get through the races, it was felt that there was an unnecessary rush. Races were being set off before the preceding one had finished. In previous years, boys had competed against boys and girls against girls. This was not the case this year. Races did not have a fair number of pupils representing each house. One race in particular was all turricks apart from one maalie; no shalders. Pupils did not appear to understand what was expected of them in each race. Especially the obstacle race created confusion. There had been no practice for this and many of the other races prior to sports day.

There was quite a bit of discussion on this and reps noted how different schools ran their sports days. Staff took onboard all of the comments and will also seek pupil opinions.

Garry left the meeting.

## **School Dinners**

This is in addition to issues already raised by class reps above. It was generally agreed that there is too much fruit, which is not eaten and that healthy eating is being taken too far, with the outcome that pupils are not particularly keen on some food choices.

Lynsey advised that Beth had previously been praised for her menu planning and had a lead role in Shetland.

Keeping a photographic record of the amount of food waste each day was suggested. As was getting pupils comments following lunch.

Odette suggested that issues discussed be raised at the pc chairs meeting in November or through the chair's facebook group. This will give us an idea of how other schools feel about the current menu and we can hear if they are also experiencing problems.

It was noted that free schools meals are provided for pupils up to Primary 5.

## **AOCB**

### Class sizes/Additional teacher

Amanda said that after the summer break there will be a composite class of 3 classes. She wondered if there will be learning support teachers in that class as there will be 25 pupils.

At the moment the school would need one more pupil to enrol to be entitled to an extra primary teacher. Staff will look at recruitment as soon as that becomes a possibility. It was noted that the recruitment process is taking a long time.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The AGM was scheduled for Tuesday 23 August 2022.