

Whalsay School Parent Council

Minute of the meeting held on 4 October 2022 at 5.30pm in at Whalsay Primary School

Present: Marie Manson – Chair
Anita Sparrow – Clerk
Zoe Williamson – Vice Chair
Gina Sandison
Margaret Leask
Marie Polson
Louise Laurenson
June Thomson
Julie Reid

Staff: Garry Spence
Lynsey Irvine
Marina Holtziemer

Apologies: Caroline Kay
Amanda Williamson
Maria Kay
Primary Staff Rep

Welcome

Marie welcomed everyone to the first meeting following the AGM, where she took up the role of Chair.

Minute of Last Meeting

The minute of the meeting held on 28 June 2022 was approved by Margaret and seconded by Louise.

Matters Arising

Review of the constitution should be put on the agenda for the first meeting in 2023.

Remind staff at Hayfield to add Marie to all Chairs correspondence.

School Dinners – Following discussion at the last meeting, Lynsey confirmed that canteen staff do not keep track of food waste.

Treasurer's Report

Marie advised that we have £5824.87. There was £825.32 expenditure in September and October and £500 income.

There was a short discussion about what would be a healthy bank balance and whether we need to keep the balance above a certain level. It was agreed that we should always have at least £2000 for emergencies.

Head Teacher's Report

(attached for reference)

Staff and reps were equally concerned with the length of time recruitment is taking.

Class Rep Questions/Issues

Nursery

Marie asked about the outdoor policy and whether bairns could be kept in if they have a cold or feel unwell. Lynsey advised that she could see parents' point of view, however the current policy is what they have been told to do from staff at Lerwick. Lynsey will raise it at the staff meeting tomorrow.

Primary 2

Once again, bairns having to wait outside in the morning following their arrival at school has been raised as an issue. This was not only highlighted by the primary 2 rep, but by most other primary reps. Marie highlighted how strongly parents feel about this and asked staff to please consider changing how this is currently being handled.

Lynsey said that pupils have been let in when it is raining. She felt that the crowded corridor in the morning is a 'nightmare'.

Parents have been told not to drop off pupils too early, but it can't always work. The bus has been doing pick ups a bit later. Despite these measures we still seem to have the same problems being raised with reps at each meeting.

Lynsey will discuss this with staff.

Primary 5

Gina asked if there could be some sort of shelter for the bike stand, so that helmets are not getting wet when they are left outside.

She also asked if bullying in the playground could be brought up at assembly, to reiterate that it should not be happening.

Gina asked if primary pupils could get some basic first aid training. Bill Christey would be willing to do this. Anita suggested that Livister could also look in to running this with bairns.

Primary 6

Julie questioned whether P6 could do more stuff with just the P6 pupils rather than those in their composite class, suggesting art and music as possibilities. Lynsey advised that there is very little scope in the timetable to allow for this and that they do have library on their own, but she will keep it in mind.

It was confirmed that netball hoops will be going up in the holidays.

Secondary 3

June said that bairns doing skills for work every second Friday are having to wait for the tea time bus to Laxo. She wondered if they could get the hostel bus and get home earlier. Gary is waiting on a reply from James Johnston about this.

Funding Requests

A funding request from Music teacher, Maree Simpson, was approved for 7 ukuleles, totalling £175.

£130 to cover costs for secondary Christmas party was approved. Request from Lynne Wilson. A second request from Lynne for costs for S1 visiting the croft house was approved; totalling £237.44.

A request from Michelle Sandison in Nursery was approved for road signs, totalling £150.

A request for 3 bins for the primary department totalling £1210.12 was discussed and felt it was too expensive. Since a previous request had been made, we agreed to pay £442.50 plus delivery.

AOCB

School Concert

There will be a performance on the evening of Tuesday 13 December and one on the afternoon of Wednesday 14 December. PC reps will form 2 groups to do the raffle at each performance.

Christmas Lunch

It will be on Thursday 15th with pupils going home at 2pm

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 29 November at 5.30pm in the Primary School.