

Whalsay School Parent Council

Minutes of the meeting held on the 29th November 2022 at 5.30pm in Whalsay Primary School

Present:

Marie Manson – Chair
Zoe Williamson – Vice-Chair
Maria Kay
Julie Reid
Margaret Leask
June Thomson
Louise Laurenson
Amanda Williamson

Staff:

Garry Spence
Pauline Irvine
Jayne Irvine

Apologies:

Heather Williamson
Gina Sandison
Anita Sparrow
Marie Polson
Secondary Staff Rep

Welcome

Marie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 4th October 2022 were approved by Margaret and seconded by Louise.

Matters Arising

Shelter for Bikes

Staff suggested that bikes could be brought to school into the porch if needed rather than getting a shelter.

Skills for Work Bus

Pupils now have their passes so can access this.

Netball Hoops

The holes for them have been dug out but unclear if anything else has been completed.

Treasurer Report

Not much change from the last report. There will be an increase in money after the raffle for the Christmas concerts have been held.

Head Teacher Report

Please see attached report from Garry.

Class Repo Questions/Issues

P6

Julie questioned if they get Health and Wellbeing together as worried with the split class they aren't getting to spend as much time with each other. Pauline explained that the class teachers work together to teach discrete lessons to the upper stages each week.

P7

Food choices limited by the time they get to the hatch – Garry confirmed that this can sometimes be the case but the pupils are on a rota system for lunch times so they wouldn't always be last to the hatch and if the cooks are aware a meal has been popular then they know they need to make more of it in the future weeks.

Play Leaders eating into their own playtime – Pauline commented that they only did 1 day a week, but could change the groups to see if pupils preferred to be with friends. Garry commented that he could come and praise the P7s for their hard work. Pauline and Jayne both commented that the Play Leaders role was good for their life lessons and gave them responsibilities.

Friday Fun Activities – Questioned if it had to be the same activity for the whole term. Pauline explained that it just made it easier or everybody would want to be swapping around, she is aware that everybody wants to do the darts and they will each get to do the darts a term.

Parent Council Contribution to School Trips

Garry brought up that they had decided to sell the concert tickets for a donation price rather than set price. He explained that due to the current climate at the moment that some people may not be able to afford it.

He said that when there is school trips then they ask for a £1 contribution but really should they be charging that. He asked if this was something the PC would be willing to help with and could we possibly pay the ferries annual cost. Marie said she would do a poll in our group chat and see what everybody thought.

Pupil Access to School in the Mornings

This is continuously being brought up by parents as some of the pupils have no shelter at the side of the school and they are constantly poorly with colds, chest infections etc. A parent suggested that could they trial a term inside and see how they got on.

Garry and Pauline both reiterated that the issue was they aren't supervised as the teacher don't start work until later. PC said they aren't supervised outside either and the bus is still coming early so some days the pupils are outside for 15 minutes, who is responsible for them. PC asked if they had a risk assessment for outside or a safeguarding policy in place.

Garry said he would speak to the bus driver and see about getting him to come later with them. It was discussed that possibly the bus pupils could be allowed in to save them from standing outside for too long. He also said he would look into who was responsible for them between this time.

Marie brought up that this would have to be dealt with in some way as it's being brought up every meeting and we're getting no further ahead with it. Garry said he would send out emails about letting the pupils in with bad weather.

School Concert

The school concerts will be held on 13 and 14 December.

We will need 2 groups to sell raffles. Marie will ask on the group chat who is available for what days.

Class reps will also need to ask for raffle donations in your class chats and these can be left at the office.

Marie will order hampers from the shop for the PC contribution for the raffle. She will also get the raffle tickets and float sorted

Recruitment and Selection Training

Garry ask if anybody had done the training as there needs to be 2 people from the Parent Council for interviews. He was already aware that Anita has hers. Margaret though she might have hers and would check.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 21 February 2023 at 5.30pm in the Primary School. Garry will check and confirm that he is available for this.