

Minutes of Whiteness Primary School Parent Council

Monday 27 September 2021, 6.00pm on Webex

Present: Jo Breeze, Rachel Colclough, Diane Forsyth, Darren Silver, Susan Jamieson, Dawn Smith, Hilary Winks, Monica Moncrieff, Cllr Catherine Hughson, Cllr Steven Coutts and Marie Grains, Clerk

Apologies: Sheila Johnson

1.0 Welcome

1.1 Jo welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were noted as above.

2.0 Approval of Previous Minute – 10 May 2021

2.1 Rachel approved the minutes with Jo seconding.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 No update from Carl Symons from Building Services. Catherine to keep on asking. Discussion about the community benefit fund, as we have recently got money for the nursery blocks, we have to wait and apply again in a years time. Darren suggested another local community group could apply for the funding this could maybe come from the Toddler group. Monica to ask at toddlers. The Parent Council can help with completing the application.

4.0 Covid-19 Updates

4.1 No change and carrying on as normal. Guidance to come over the October break.

5.0 Headteachers Report

Leadership and Management

- Jacqui Gunn is in post as our Senior Practitioner ELC
- Our three classes are working well with the old P5/6 room being used as the Music room. The old music room is used as a store, the isolation room and the music instructor room.
- Mrs Anne- Karine Strachan is leaving her post as Music Teacher at the October break. Recruitment is underway.
- We have welcomed Alison Foyle for 10hpw- working as a Play Practitioner in the P1/2/3 classroom- this is a pilot running up to Christmas.
- Anita Mayes has an additional 3.5hpw working to support P1 transition into P1. This is temporary for a year.

Learning provision

- All children have settled well into new classes.
- Continuing with whole school approaches to planning with all classes working on same area of interdisciplinary learning.
- Instrumental instruction takes place either live in school or remotely.
- Bubbles have been removed.
- Two playground zones P1-4 and P5-7. This is due to Available supervision and analysis if data showing an 83% reduction in accidents in the playground when children were in zones.

Pupil views on this are mixed. We will look to review again with the children through next term.

- We continue to meet virtually on a Friday in our assemblies- the children engage well with this style of gathering.
- Swimming is being delivered again- P6/7 complete their 6 week block this week.

Successes and achievements

- Good start back to the new school year
- Happy children
- We enjoyed a one off session with Joy Duncan drumming again.

6.0 School Improvement Planning

6.1 The plan is in 3 manageable parts;

1) Improve health and wellbeing- focussing on inclusive outdoor provision. The Wendy house has been installed and the outdoor play blocks have arrived. R J McLeod have been approached to help with providing chips for paths, Rachel to chase them for a response. P6/7 are helping to develop a sheltered space. Tesco bags for help could be used to help with funding. Other classes are writing letters asking for support. 'Engagement with the community' the school would like to open the outdoor area to the public. Jonny Polson will help with signage, when required.

2) Empowering learners- pupil voice / participation and the Rights of the Child. Legislation will be law in November with Scotland the first country leading the legislation.

3) Increase pupil motivation and engagement- Training input and developing how we celebrate wider achievement and share with children in Friday assemblies and with families- updates.

Ongoing intervention- Raise attainment- PEF money used to give additional hours to learning support workers- who will support targeted pupils.

Rachel welcomes any feedback.

7.0 Treasurers Report

7.1 £601.91 in the bank. As the price increased for the nursery blocks we need to fundraise for £242. Darren to prepare a Halloween quiz sheet for sale in the local shops.

8.0 Cost of the School Day

8.1 This has been highlighted more through Covid. Schools can be expensive and at Whiteness we try not to ask for money, there will be some fundraising with all classes helping organise. With Christmas coming there will be class photos and these are bought as gifts for family. Pockets of people maybe struggling. Discussion about how to raise awareness of local support and help. Rachel to add a section to the school web page titled 'we are here to help' where information can be signposted. Rachel asked if anyone had any ideas of what else could be added to let her know.

9.0 Future Events: Parents Evening & Christmas Concert

- 9.1 Not known yet how parents evening will be held. Last year was a phone call home that can't be done this year. Suggestion was to have a brief interim report in November with an option for the parent to phone, but this could add more work on the teacher. Jo wondered if teachers can survey parents with a suggestion of no report in November and the parents evening be held early next year.
- 9.2 The Christmas concert was virtual last year, this year pupils will be able to do more but still not allowed whole school gatherings. There could be a P1-P4 group, P5-P7 group, carol concert or small play. This will be uploaded to Youtube for 1 week. This will be discussed again in November.

10.0 AOCB

- 10.1 Online or face-to-face PC meetings WebEx certainly behaved better than Vscene! Online meetings has its benefits. Was agreed to try both types of meeting.
- 10.2 Fundraising Monica to arrange an online auction. Susan Jamieson to forward information on facebook auctions. Some money raised will to go towards the outdoor shelter.
- 10.3 Maureen has asked for new nets for the goals in the multicourt, school to arrange price and sizes and get back to the parent council for payment.

11.0 Date for next meeting

- 11.1 Monday 8 November 2021 6.00pm.