

# **Minutes of Whiteness Primary School Parent Council**

## **Monday 10 May 2021, 6.00pm on VScene**

Present: Jo Breeze, Rachel Colclough, Cllr Catherine Hughson, Cllr Steven Coutts, Angela Seator, Ingrid Pottinger, Diane Forsyth, Darren Silver and Marie Grains, Clerk

Apologies: Hannah Polson, Susan Jamieson and Dawn Smith

### **1.0 Welcome**

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

### **2.0 Approval of Previous Minute – 15 February 2021**

2.1 Rachel approved the minutes with Diane seconding.

### **3.0 Matters Arising**

3.1 Carl Symons from Building Services is to look at the rubber crumb issue.

### **4.0 Covid-19 Updates**

4.1 All pupils back at school, same position as before Christmas. Government announcement is on 17<sup>th</sup> May hoping for level 2. PE is back indoors.

### **5.0 Headteachers Report**

#### **5.1 Leadership and Management**

- We are finally interviewing for the Senior Practitioner post ELC on Thursday this week and I am hopeful we will have a successful candidate. This has taken 3 rounds of advertising.
- Mhairi MacLean joined Whiteness Early Years in April- Mhairi is our Practitioner ELC and job-shares with Mhari Drozdowska who returned from Maternity leave at the end of March. Mhairi M works Monday to Wednesday and Mhari D Thursday and Friday.
- Jaclyn Ross has joined the teaching staff on a temporary contract covering Laura Lawson's maternity leave.
- 100% of our teaching staff and around 70% of the rest of school staff are taking a lateral flow test twice weekly.
- We have shared with parents that we shall be reducing to a three teacher school from August 2021. Our numbers have dropped significantly over the last year. Some pupils have moved away south, some have taken up places at their catchment school and some will be moving to another school from August. Our school roll will stand at 67 in primary- we require 73 to remain a four teacher school.
- Elizabeth Garrick has had her secondment to Happyhansel and Sandness extended for another year.
- Ellie Macleod, who was covering her secondment unfortunately will be leaving us as her contract was a temporary one.
- Extra school development planned during swimming provision has not taken place this year due to disruption to the swimming timetable and the need for class teachers to accompany

the classes. This will hopefully be picked up next year if we are able to use parent helpers again.

### Learning provision

- All children have been back in school accessing fulltime education since 15 March. They have settled in well.
- Whole school approaches to planning with all classes working on same area of interdisciplinary learning- positive outcome from previous lockdown- is continuing and this term they are looking at the world around us- Home and Away.
- Instrumental instruction takes place either live in school or remotely.
- All classes are still kept to their own bubbles to reduce mixing and mitigate against a spread or mass isolation if we were to have another positive case.
- We continue to meet virtually on a Friday in our assemblies- the children engage well with this style of gathering.
- P7 and P6 are completing their bikeability training this term.
- All classes will receive some swimming this term- this is severely reduced as limited time to allow all children Mr Kirkness teaches across 4 schools to get some provision.
- We have paid for a number of workshops and presentations delivered through the International Edinburgh Children's festival. All classes from Early Years to P7 will enjoy a variety of virtual session week beginning 25 May.

### **Successes and achievements**

- P7 have started their transition programme ahead of starting at the Anderson High School – they have visited after school for a tour and will enjoy one timetabled day on the 18 June.
- The school took part in Da Voar Redd Up this year, clearing up the beaches and curb sides around the local area.
- Four of our P6 pupils won the Shetland Euroquiz heats- they will go on to compete in the national finals in June.
- P3/4 and P5/6 enjoyed a virtual workshop with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra last week in music with Mrs Strachan.

## **6.0 Treasurers Report**

- 6.1 There is £863.91 in the bank. Our Scholastic 'free books rewards balance' of £105 has been spent and a payment of £63.95 has been made for the school library and class libraries.

## **7.0 School Improvement Planning**

- 7.1 This term is maintaining the plan. Thinking ahead to next year and what would the parent council want to see on the plan? Rachel said about further progression with health and wellbeing, approve attainment with identifying gaps due to lockdown. Diane said she would like to further develop the outdoor play area. There is community use of the area at weekends and after school but at times this area is not respected. Could we develop new signage for the area. Jo to speak with Hannah/Jonny Polson, Art Machine, to see if new signs can be made.
- 7.2 Rachel to discuss forward planning and evaluation with children for next year.
- 7.3 Jo asked about health and wellbeing after covid, any ideas at the moment. Rachel said the school was gathering views from children and collecting data through the year. The local

government and authority were 'building back better'. The zones of regulation have been successful in school and Jo suggested parents could use the same tactics at home, same routine, same pattern. Rachel to share the guide for use at home.

- 7.4 Discussion about schools counselling service. Rachel said through this service parents are invited to come to the school to speak.

## **8.0 Viking Energy Community Benefit Fund**

- 8.1 Rachel has completed an application form for outlast blocks for the school and the grant has to be submitted by the Parent Council. Outlast blocks is blocks of wood made of special material so that they last 15/20 years with outdoor play. A school set costs around £3,500. The application is submitted to a central place then goes to the Tingwall, Whiteness and Weisdale Community Council for their approval. Storage would be needed too to keep the blocks secure. Rachel to send to Jo for submitting. <https://www.communityplaythings.co.uk/products/outdoor-play/outlast-blocks/w388>

## **9.0 Fundraising**

- 9.1 Discussion about fundraising as funds are low. A Facebook online auction was suggested but someone would need to look after this. Rachel and Diane both confirmed this term was too busy for the school to get involved with fundraising but suggested after the summer. Letters could be drafted and sent now to be sent to businesses asking for donations with the raffle being held after August. A suggestion was to have parent council members only meeting about fundraising.

## **10.0 AOCB**

- 10.1 The questionnaire sent before the Easter holidays did not get many answers, around 18 responses.
- 10.2 £474.00 has been received from the Tingwall, Whiteness and Weisdale Community Council for the wendy house. The concrete base has been completed with the wendy house to be delivered for end May.
- 10.3 Discussion about the polycrub, it is hoped the Parent Council will reinstate the polycrub soon.

## **11.0 Date for next meeting**

- 11.1 AGM Monday 13 September 2021 at 6.00pm followed by a meeting of the Parent Council at 6.30pm.