

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

## **Monday 12 September 2022, 6.50pm on Teams and at the school**

Present: Cllr Catherine Hughson, Cllr Moraig Lyall, Cllr Davie Sandison, Rachel Colclough, Dawn Smith, Susan Jamieson, Monica Moncrieff, Hilary Winks, Darren Silver, Diane Forsyth, Amy Leask and Marie Grains – Clerk

### **1.0 Welcome**

1.1 Darren welcomed all to the meeting, there were no apologies.

### **2.0 Approval of Previous Minute – 9 May 2022**

2.1 Rachel approved and Dawn seconded the minutes.

### **3.0 Matters Arising**

3.1 Rachel gave an update regarding the jam board feedback, the English department feedback for the next cluster head teachers meeting.

3.2 The improvement plan was on display at the sports day where parents could add any comments, no comments had been added. Dawn suggested for the next sports day bairns could have biscuits and juice, a table will be set up outside for them to have after their races.

### **4.0 Headteachers Report**

#### **4.1 Leadership and Management**

- Recruitment process - held up by staff shortages in Human Resources. All schools are experiencing the same problems. All vacant post requested to advertise before the summer- some are still waiting to be processed.
- Vacant post in P6/7- 14hpw (replacing Jaclyn Ross who left at the end of session 2021/2022). At present, Mrs Jeanette Leask is covering this until the October holidays.
- Vacant post in Early Years. Mrs Pauline Gilfillan left last Friday, her post has just gone live, supply cover is being used to backfill this- however there isn't cover every day due to pressures on the supply list with all schools using supply to fill vacant posts that aren't being advertised.
- Vacant post – clerical assistant. Mrs Sue Lewis has retired and Ms Rebecca Riley is working on until the end of this term. Sue is working on supply until the post is filled; the advert has not yet gone live.
- Mrs Alison Foyle will be leaving at the end of September. Alison has been working as a Play Practitioner, supporting P1. Difficulty recruiting to her replacement.
- We welcome Mr Seth Travins to our team. Seth is teaching music to all our classes.
- Anita Mayes' additional 3.5hpw working to support P1 transition into P1 has been extended for another year.

- Mrs Anita Mayes ASN Teacher hours have been cut by a day. Anita is now 2.5 days at Whiteness instead of 3.5 days. Anita works in another school for the 1 day we have lost.
- Our LSW time is under review and the authority plan to reduce this by 31.5 hours a week. This would be devastating for the support we have in place for our pupils who require additional support. The school is working to justify keeping what we have.

### **Learning provision**

- All children have settled well into new classes.
- P1 pupil started full days today.
- Following feedback from parents last year, P1 parents who were unable to pick up at 1pm for the first 4 weeks were offered a place in EY, during this transition period. This has worked well and will be evaluated later this term.
- Continuing with whole school approaches to planning with all classes working on same area of interdisciplinary learning.
- Instrumental instruction takes place in school.
- Guitar tuition is on hold while the authority waits for the funding from Music Youth Initiative Scotland.
- Swimming is being delivered again- P6/7 complete their 6 week block in a couple of weeks.
- P6/7 and P3/4/5 have enjoyed a trip to the Mareel to watch a film during Screenplay week. Each class combined their trip with a visit to a business- to tie in with their topic this term- Me and Beyond (learning about jobs and future careers)
- The whole school enjoyed a visit from Bud- the Poppy Scotland travelling museum at the start of September.

### **Successes and achievements**

- Good start back to the new school year;
- Our school committees have been selected and the first meetings have taken place last week, with one this week.

## **5.0 Treasurers Report**

5.1 Balance at September £2,711.73.

## **6.0 School Improvement Planning – Evaluation and Forward Planning**

6.1 4 targets/priorities with order from the pupils:

Health and wellbeing, building confidence and also show and tell with bringing in their pets.  
 Family learning, building on maths skills. The September coffee morning will support maths at home with money and time activities.  
 Getting right support using PEF money.  
 Data – improve writing bookmarks, pupils to help.

## **7.0 Future Events:**

- 7.1 Darren asked the question where can the parent council help? The wider parent forum to be sent a survey asking if parents evening is to be face to face or telephone appointment.
- 7.2 Hall is booked for the Christmas concerts. Unsure if its to be one big concert with all classes. Parent Council to arrange raffle hampers and refreshments.
- 7.3 Waiting guidance from HR regarding the Queens funeral Monday 19 September, assuming all schools will be closed.

## **8.0 AOCB**

- 8.1 Hilary asked if the school's website could highlight 'the cost of the school day' again. Rachel to include in the Friday email home to parents. Rachel asked members to let her know if there is any new guidance, hints, or tips in reducing costs/maximizing benefits. Discussed Shetland Climate week. Darren suggested having leaflets available at the school.
- 8.2 The Building Maintenance section of the council to include the rubber crumb in their programme for next year. Catherine asked Rachel to record any evidence of injuries received due to the crumb that could help the schools case in getting the crumb fixed quicker.
- 8.3 Susan explained the 'Win-Furt' campaign, this is for developing footpaths and cycle paths around Shetland. Susan to share further information.
- 8.4 Rachel said about the outdoor structure that P6/7 have been developing. Neil Clubb from the Councils Assets, Commissioning and Procurement section has been along to help with layout and costings. A solution is to have 2 polycrubs near one another with a wind break between. With the auction money, school fund, funding from the Zetland Trust and hopefully Viking Shetland Benefit fund would cover the material costs of £44,000. Discussed ground drainage, R J Macleod can't commit labour but would provide materials. Suggestion to have a day or week of action with help from parents and previous pupils from sports groups. Rachel to speak with Nicola Halcrow, Community Justice.
- 8.5 Darren has spoken with the community Police liaison, there has been an increase in drive bys at school.
- 8.6 Rachel hasn't been aware of any further concerns about the schools playground. Darren to look at getting new signage.

## **9.0 Date for next meetings**

- 9.1 Monday 14 November 2022 at 6.30pm  
Monday 13 February 2023 at 6.30pm  
Monday 8 May 2023 at 6.30pm  
AGM - Monday 11 September 2023 at 6.30pm