

**MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF WHITENESS PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
HELD ON Monday 13 February 2023 at 6.30 pm in WHITENESS PRIMARY SCHOOL
AND ON MS TEAMS**

PRESENT:

Rachel Colclough – Head Teacher, Darren Silver (Chair), Monica Moncrieff (Vice-Chair), Dawn Smith (Parent Member / Minute), Amy Leask (Parent member), Hilary Winks (Parent Member), Susan Jamieson (Co-opted Member), Moraig Lyall (Councillor), Catherine Hughson (Councillor)

PARENTS IN ATTENDANCE:

Sue Lewis, Lisa Connell, Jonathan Connell, Laura Molloy, Robert Molloy, Rebecca Manson, Karen Irvine

APOLOGIES: Davie Sandison (Councillor)

Parent Council Meeting opened at 6.30pm.

1. Welcome & Apologies – Darren welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Apologies were noted as above.
2. Previous minutes from meeting in November 2022 were approved.
3. Matters Arising – There been an increase in e mails to be sent home and so it was agreed that e mails they were asked to share from other organisations would be sent once a week, Rachel will send the Friday e mail about any school related thing. Links to parent appointments will be sent separately.
 - i. Outdoor Provision for School Project – Rachel noted that funding applications are delayed until early March. Can go to the Community Benefit Fund after this.
 - ii. Polycrub – D Forsyth would like to start work with classes in the polycrub after the long weekend in February and asked if anyone on the Polycrub Group could prepare before classes go in. Dawn is happy to do this and will put a message on the group page for anyone else wanting help.
 - iii. Evening for Parents in School – thoughts of holding a Parent Council Evening in School, possibly a Fish and Chip Night / Quiz or Bingo night.
- 4.& 5. Head Teachers Report / School Improvement Planning Update – Rachel went through her report including:
 - Vacancy in P6/P7 class has now been filled with Ellie McLeod
 - Evette Pearson has been appointed to the Clerical Assistant post and works 26 hpw

- ELC Practitioner post vacancy / recruitment is a real problem so this is likely to take a while.
 - Learning Provision – first face to face meeting went well and will continue with blended approach with face to face one evening and telephone appointments another evening.
 - Long Long Ago topics being done through each class
 - Instrumental Tuition ongoing
 - Swimming blocks for classes still ongoing
 - All pupils took part in sharing their views in National Discussion. The agenda to reshape education in Scotland.
 - Aware of the disruption in school with strikes/snow/illness days for children
 - Together time for ELC and P1 class every second week is working really well as part of ELC transition.
 - Children in Need – arrangements will be made for Children in Need Day in March.
 - Stay and Play Sessions – the stay and play sessions for parents of Early Learning children went well.
 - School Xmas Concert – Rachel acknowledged how well the children had done for the Xmas concert considering there had been none for so long.
 - Just completed a 5 week block of traditional dance followed by a Whole School Dance. Pupils did the Boston Two Step when the Nesting Jarl Squad visited.
6. Treasurers Report – Darren gave members an update of finances. Total amount £2986.32. £2000 due to come out for committed project for school. The online shopping fund has raised £329.90. Darren needs 2 signatories on the account and would like more committee members to be signatories to avoid any delays in signing off financial things.
7. Speed of vehicles passing School when 20mph restrictions in place – Lisa Connell gave a background of the situation. At morning and end of school, all parents are aware when crossing the road from Clach Na Strom, and other areas, that traffic is not keeping to the 20mph restrictions. Parents are extremely concerned for the safety of their children getting to and from school. Contact had been made with Colin Gair at Transport Department, who had been invited to the meeting. Parents were disappointed that those invited to the meeting were not able to attend. E mail correspondence from Colin Gair had noted that parents were to refer the issue to the Police. Police have patrolled in January. There has been further e mail correspondence with Colin Gair.

Catherine Hughson noted that a safety report was carried out regarding the road in July 2022 with various parts deemed unsafe. The report will be taken to the Environment and Transport Committee in March, of which Moraig Lyall is Chair. The report has asked for 50mph zone from Stebbigrind through to Weisdale with further reduction going past school. Helen Budge is also open to looking at other options.

Susan Jamieson added that the “Win Furt” project had also raised concerns about the road across the community.

Darren had done some research on School Speed Watch and passed around a paper for everyone to see. This is a community operated reporting scheme which will allow unpaid volunteers to officially monitor and report to the Police the details of speeding vehicles in specific areas where speeding is a concern to the community.

There followed discussion around accountability, signage, lollipop person in place, pelican crossing, comparisons with other areas like Scalloway, Tresta and the possibility of volunteer parents in the meantime and that parents are gravely concerned that an accident will happen before anything is done.

Rachel asked for a list of which company trucks were going by so she can contact them directly.

Lisa will arrange to meet with Colin Gair.

Rachel will investigate possibility of creating a Lollipop Person post

Darren will contact the area Police Liaison Officer, Reece Thorne.

Catherine Hughson will take to the Community Safety and Resilience Board Meeting.

All present agreed a copy of this minute would be sent to Transport.

Darren thanked everyone for coming to the meeting to discuss this concern.

- 8. & 9. SCVO Membership and Proposed EGM** – The Parent Council still need a Treasurer and Clerk. Some parents had been in contact and it is hoped to have another parent member and clerk soon. Darren as Chair had signed up to the Scottish Charitable and Voluntary Organisation, which will help with funding applications. Darren would like to make some constitutional changes to Parent Council to make it a more powerful asset and change to charitable status, with this in mind would like to propose an EGM to put this proposal forward. Date arranged for Monday 27 March.
- 10. i. AOB** – Darren spoke about Income Streams – Zifit App which allows to put a box together of old books/dvds/cds to sell for money to raise funds for school. Darren will do up a poster on this.
- ii.** Amy put forward comments from Parents in the community – Strikes and lack of notice given – some parents were frustrated about the lack of notice. Rachel explained that notification of strikes for parents comes from Hayfield and is embargoed until they receive it.
- iii.** Parents of New P1s – can they do full days as it is unsettling for them doing half days. Rachel explained that a survey had been done last year on this and most parents agreed half days as they recognised how tired the children were when first starting school. Rachel will send out another survey to gauge views for this year.
- iv.** Early Years Outdoor Area – Rachel asked Jonathan if he would be able to help them with a bit of equipment in the outdoor area.
- v.** Jonathan offered the Christian Youth Camp facilities for any out of school trips, which is free for schools to use.

Darren thank everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8pm.