



Parent Council Minutes Tuesday 2nd October 2018

Present: Scott Clark (SC), Caroline Sneddon (CS), Rachel Miller (RM), Freya Kennedy (FK), Rita Cowan (RC), Sheila Moore (SM), Councillor Joe Lowe (JL), Councillor Lynne Nailon (LN), Councillor Joe Lowe (JL)

Apologies: Myra McCleneghen (MMc), Councillor John Ross (JR), Councillor Josh Wilson (JW)

Previous minutes approved

HEAD TEACHERS REPORT

School Extension: This continues to run smoothly. SC reported that the site manager has been accommodating and proactive. LN will email Gordon Turnbull regarding issues with pedestrian access and tree pruning. LN will also contact the roads department regarding road markings on school premises. It was noted that the noise of building work had not proved problematic for teachers or pupils to date.

Adverse weather: SC informed everyone that the Torhead Farm gate will not be open in adverse weather conditions. There will only be one access into the school at these times. SC noted that there are strict guidelines around how long the janitor can clear snow for around the school. SC will put further information regarding this in the next school newsletter and will post this on twitter.

Staffing Update: Collette Watson, the new depute head teacher started last week. The school now has a management team of 4. Having Collette present has allowed MMc to take each of the classes for one hour per week and another teacher will cover each of the classes for an hour and a half covering Art and French. Increasing MMc's teaching remit has meant that the weekly assembly can be shortened from an hour to half an hour.

School Budget: SC ran through budget report. Primary 4-7 novels now ordered with dust jackets and storage boxes. New headphones also ordered. No further big commitments to budget since last meeting.

PEF: Previously one meeting per term for teachers to update on pupil progress and forward planning with management. He noted there are some inconsistencies between how teachers are forward planning and that this will be addressed going forward. Teachers are now being asked to make a professional judgement about whether a child is like to exceed expectations, achieve or underachieve. SC said there are more discussions about how to advance pupils who are already 'exceeding' and 'achieving'. SC acknowledged that the school could improve on challenging able children and said this is now being looked at more closely.

Senior Management Team Remits: SC presented a document outlining the role of each of the senior management team. There will be an abridged version of this in the next school newsletter.

Target Setting Open Day: This was an event designed to invite parents in to the school as early as possible in the year and get them involved with target setting in relation to their children. 120 parents attended the morning session and 110 parents attended the afternoon session. Some information on the school improvement plan was also presented to parents by SC at the event. Parents were asked to complete a feedback form. Feedback was mixed. There was some feedback from parents about there not being enough time in the classroom, particularly from parents with two or more children. SC also asked for feedback from some of the children and again there was mixed feedback on their experiences of this event. Some children were not happy with a parent being there and others were upset one of their parents had not attended. All parents will now get a copy of the targets for their children. Those parents who did not attend will be asked to complete this with their children at home. These targets will be reviewed with the teacher at parent's night.

It was fed back at the meeting by FK and SM that some parents felt that the name of the event 'meet the teacher' was misleading and should be changed for next year.

TREASURERS REPORT

CS agreed that any funds earmarked for the role of Parent Council Secretary would go into school funds.

AOB

Link between Parents Council and other Parents: Suggestion made about inserting a section on the Parent Council into the next Parents newsletter. Names of all Parent Council members will appear in the next newsletter. It was agreed that SM will set up a gmail account that parents can use to send in anything they would like to be raised at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting (AGM) - 20th November 2018. 6.30pm for 6.45pm start.
