

WOODHEAD PARENTS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 13th May 2020

Conducted virtually using Zoom

Parent Council meeting

PRESENT: Scott Jasnosz-Clark, Sheila Moore, Stephen Lennox, Scott Lindsay, Elaine Ferguson, Freya Kennedy, Myra McCleneghan, Pamela Shearer

APOLOGIES: Matt Hooper, Claire Fox, Rachel Miller

Councillors weren't invited to the meeting due to the fact that this was a virtual meeting.

Matt Hooper has indicated he may be unable to proceed as a member of the PC.

Follow on from previous minutes

Update on sports kit grants, Matt has updated that a lottery grant is a much bigger undertaking than first thought. This has been passed on until next year to be looked at again.

CF was going to demonstrate Numicon resources, this has been pushed forward, potentially at another virtual meeting or maybe first physical meeting. Staff have been training with the new resources.

Traffic audit did take place 2 weeks before the school closed and there was nothing in the report that wasn't already being actioned by the school ie notes in newsletters and twitter. Council uphold the schools right to refuse parents access to the school car park for pick up due to the small size of the car park and the location of the school.

Headteachers report

Teaching during lockdown.

At this time the school has been using Google classroom to deliver all school work to pupils. The school started lockdown by sending home paper learning packs to make sure all pupils received some work they could do while waiting for guidance from SLC. Once this was clear the school moved to Google classroom which allows for continuity of learning and progression of learning. The school reports approx. 60% of children are accessing G.class.

Dedicated email address set up for passwords and MMc has been helping pupils and parents to access the work with technical support. Also dedicated email address set up for questions about home learning which isn't being accessed as much as pupils can ask teachers direct questions via G.class.

School is following SLC guidance to check on vulnerable families and helping them to access learning opportunities which is a few cases has included school Hub places.

School is phoning every family to check on them and see if they are feeling supported and how they are dealing with home learning. Underestimated how long this would take, at the time of meeting they have phoned about 80% of pupils.

SLC asked school to identify families that might need additional council resources, details have been sent to the council and the council have asked school to list priority families due to massive demand for resources.

School message remains do what you can do to suit your family circumstances.

Transitions

Very difficult as no clear guidance at time of meeting, SLC still not released any timetable or guidance at time of meeting. Due to lockdown there was a delay on placing requests etc. Next week the school is starting to release online support to attempt to replicate the transition period for nursery to school and also p7 to high school is being provided by Calderside Academy information being shared on twitter from high schools as the placing request delay means can't clarify where each student going. Teachers wont be confirmed due to no idea of class sizes as yet.

Pupil Report Cards

These have been completed, SLC does not want them posted out so the school is currently working on a way to make sure the pupils receive their reports.

Lockerbie Manor

LM have asked school if they wish to reserve a space in Sept, this has been provisionally booked but no payments will be taken from parents and school will support payment plans etc once plans can be confirmed.

HMI Inspection

No full report has been issued as yet but there will be no further inspection.

SC wanted to make the PC aware of a number of issues that arose during inspection.

SC made a formal complaint about the inspection and the conduct of the inspectors, this was passed on to a procedural complaints process. SC received a formal apology and the school received an apology.

The issues that had arisen had coloured the initial report, once this was contested by the school and upheld the report was corrected...this corrected report is the one that has not been published due to the shutdown. The report will not show any issues that arose and the school will not be re-examined but SC was keen to highlight the issues that arose to make sure that all PC were aware what had happened and how the school had dealt with it.

SC was clear the HMI is a separate body and therefore the school had the right to defend themselves and this was upheld by the inspectorate.

SC was not happy with some comments about the children's learning that were just wrong, and the conduct issues and the way the staff were spoken to by the inspectors. Inspectorate agreed with the schools complaints and the schools grade is high enough to merit no further inspection.

Pamela Shearer questioned why the PC and school needed to be made aware of the issues if it wouldn't show in the report but SC pointed out the fact that it may appear in the press if discussed at council meeting and that he wanted to be transparent and open about the situation.

SM asked if there would be a further meeting to share updates about school re-opening. SC suggested that an extraordinary meeting of the PC be called once there was information to be shared. All agreed.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm