

WOODHEAD PARENTS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 6th October 2020

Conducted virtually using Zoom

Parent Council meeting

PRESENT: Scott Jasnosz-Clark (SC), Elaine Ferguson (EF), Sheila Moore (SM), Scott Lindsay (SL), Freya Kennedy (FK), Pamela Shearer (PS), Colette Watson (CW), Claire Fox (CF), Rachel Miller (RM), Alison Yim (AY), Helen Paterson (HP), Karen Mulholland (KM),

APOLOGIES: Stephen Lennox, Kelly Paxton, Matt Hooper

EF opened meeting by welcoming the new members of the Parents Council and introductions were done.

Previous minutes approved with no issues arising, SC says Numicon update that was meant to be done a few meetings ago will be done tonight.

AGM

Posts are for 2 years so nobody needs to be re-elected and nobody is stepping down. Constitution does not need amended as its been updated recently and there are no issues. There is one parent on the waiting list to join as only 12 parents on the council, decision made to wait for a resignation rather than amend constitution to allow more parents...this is the first year there has been the issue of more parents than places.

SC The AGM should include an annual report which SC has a template for, he is going to forward to EF who can fill in bullet points with the activities of the PC for the year for example car parking, HMI inspection, catchment area etc.

No other issues for the AGM so EF moves on to HT Report.

HEADTEACHERS REPORT

Numicon Presentation, presented by C.Fox

Background for new members – schools improvement plan included improve mental maths ability throughout the school. Staff wanted to use Numicon as it's a CPA method – children learn better when they can handle, Concrete, then Pictures, then Abstract.

Numicon – recognise odds and evens

- colours always the same, for example 1 is orange and this allows for colour recognition (foam squares in nursery to all for this to start early)

-Number facts and stories of numbers through play and exploring

-Subtraction and which number is missing

-Exploring fractions further up the school, adding fractions.

-There are also rods and beads to allow children to play and explore.

In order to allow parents to understand what the school is doing there are plans to explain the system to the whole parent body, there are also good online resources to allow support at home.

All classes have these packs and are exploring them in class. Resources can be accessed on the interactive white board boards and school have signed up to online resources. Staff spent InService learning to use this, endless opportunities to use these in the class. RM added that her class in P2 are really enjoying using them and its exciting to try something new.

Numicon was severely delayed by Covid as was purchased in Feb but school very keen to involve parents.

KM is an occupational health worker in NHS and is offering services of a colleague who has been making some excellent resource videos.

CF discussed using children of the PC to make short videos to share with the wider parent body is the PC parents were OK with this, nobody objected to their child being involved.

SC said that its been a large financial commitment but he is confident it is valuable and worthwhile. Funded training and resources using money from nursery, PEF money and a substantial contribution of £1500 from the PTA – SC pointing out the PTA fundraising is being used to benefit every child in the school.

SL asking if it's a benefit for parents to purchase their own set to use at home, CF said that only the genuine set is colour matched and you need to have a variety of each number so she felt it wouldn't be worthwhile. SC doesn't like to suggest parents buy anything as puts pressure on them to spend money.

Parent Zone Website

www.education.gov.scot/parentzone/getting-involved/parent-councils/about-parent-councils

Education Scotland resource to make sure people realise the difference between the PTS (fundraising) and the PC – what they can do and what they cant.

Review of Covid Procedures

Last couple of weeks the school has tightened up bubbles and pods – “bubbles” is class and “pod” is nursery, terminology used by SLC. Link officer came in 2 weeks ago with suggestions, tighten up class bubbles is advice from HQ so no crossover- means only single class needs to isolate.

To tighten it further the lunch time separated into gym hall for packed lunches – works really well and allows confident that classes are not mixing at all.

Nursery pick up and drop off changed and working really well thanks to suggestions from PC. Last week the one way system flipped to make exit work better. SC reluctant to move to staggered starts and finish as siblings would make it much more complicated.

Feedback from PC? PS drop off working much better and the school lunch order being taken which makes and difference. Staff being encouraged to still ask about symptoms as SC had originally said he wasn't sure at the last meeting is this was OK. SL noticed a dramatic improvement and appreciated feedback taken and something done so quickly.

Test and Protect update, if school notified it isn't the school that identifies, its done by the NHS.

LS any news on Breakfast club? SC currently because of “bubbles” being maintained there is a delay in any decision.

Staff Update

Mrs Buchanan dropping to 3 days so a new **School Support Assistant** is being **temporarily** appointed for the 2 days, Stuart Allardice starting on the 22nd October

PDA student from the 19th Oct, trainee support asst.

Mrs **Clark** on maternity leave

Mrs **Byrne** on long term absence

Mrs McPhee is staying on to cover Mrs **Clark's** mat leave and Mrs **Byrne's** absence.

Tweak for remits of dept heads, takes some roles away from SC as his job is now involving a lot more Covid and risk assessments.

Also creates a direct line of management for children so SC can escalate issues and be the next step for a complaint.

Learning at Home

Contingency plan is Google classrooms

Calendar

Christmas parties going ahead in classrooms.

Nativity will be worked out, probably going to do some kind of recording accessible by parents online.

Sports day/Leavers Ball pencilled in as nobody knows what plans are like for next year.

Reporting to Parents

This year will be an interim report instead of parents night.

Parents night in march will depend on restrictions but plans are to do this over the phone – book an appt time to have a discussion with teacher.

Full report card in June

SL suggesting some kind of video for meet the teacher and so that parents can see what is happening in class.

Learning and Teaching

Assessment after lockdown suggests very few children have regressed, percentage have progressed and the majority have simply stagnated.

Problems with spelling and probably only subject showing improvement is reading.

Now that we know, what are we doing?

Health and Wellbeing, 99% of kids were ready to come back to school, kids are ready to learn and get involved with topics etc.

Literacy and numeracy tasks.

PE, guidelines mean outdoor all of the time when weather allows.

FK asked about music tuition and swimming lessons – no music as no space for tuition and there are no plans for swimming lessons.

Lockerbie Manor provisionally booked but no payments being taken.

Homework

CF trying to ensure consistency across the school. Staff decided to use Google Classroom for homework and it means pupils regularly accessing G.Class in case of isolation or lockdown. ICT suit being used to make sure all kids comfortable using G.Class and are logged into their new class.

Priority numeracy and literacy and school will monitor this. G.class will be used to assign tasks to practice form that week and this will be checked on g.class and also a visual check of jotters on a Friday.

P1, CW says difficult for P1s to log on themselves so cards will be sent home, format for P1 is different, they wont get a jotter, they will get printed booklets and a 4weekly overview of class work.

CW confirming that the learning journal will be used to send home learning in nursery, SL feels the learning journal not being used that much and PS agrees. SC says that there is a minimum number of learning journal posts so he will check this.

KM asking what expectation there is of feedback for P1 but CF saying g.class will help with this.

AOB

FK, raised the issue of dangerous parking on Balmore drive and if this could be addressed by the PC on behalf of the parent body who crosses that road everyday. SC suggests PC contact Councillor Ross directly as these are issues that would be raised with them at meetings, FK agreed she would do this.

SC mentions that is raises issue of inviting Councillors to the Zoom meetings and EF is going to look at this.

KM not receiving emails, make sure to send KM an email with the minutes directly from FK as secretary. SC reminding parents at this point to only use his email address for PC business, school office address for all school business.

PS asking if all additional support has been reinstated due a parent query. SC confirmed support assistants using the bubbles so all classes are getting SA time.

CF pointing out that please encourage all parents to contact the school with queries like this rather than wait for the PC to meet.

LS raised there is a bush that has very thorny branches overgrown on the path down from the main school gate, it is inside the school grounds. SC confirmed he will discuss with janitor.

Thank You

Next Meeting 3rd November 2020, by Zoom