

## WOODHEAD PARENTS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### **Parent Council meeting**

PRESENT: Scott Jasnosz-Clark (SC), Claire Fox (CF), Sheila Moore (SM), Freya Kennedy (FK), Karen Mulholland (KM), Fiona Hendry(FH), Rachel Miller (RM), Lisa Gardner (LG), Pamela Shearer(PS), Laura McIntyre (LM), Adele Pirie (AP) Scott Lindsay (SLi) Cllr Helen Toner, Denise McCafferty(DM), Cllr John Ross, Cllr Gavin Keatt

APOLOGIES. Helen Paterson, Stephen Lennox, Alison Yim, Cllr Celine Handibode

Welcome from the Chair, Sheila Moore.

Previous minutes approved by PS, 2<sup>nd</sup> SL

### **Matter arising from last minutes**

SM, emailed roads and they've offered to look at a crossing for Woodhead. Sent map of area and asked where wed like considered. PC agreed to ask them to look at Meikle Earnock Road for volume of traffic that will be caused by road closures in next few years due to construction, and Balmore drive for safety considerations.

Email read out from Cllr Ross confirming construction of a spine road to start after the summer, early indications are it will take 4 years to complete.

### **Changes to the school day**

SM had an email from Helen Patterson with concerns over the changes to the school day which sees the end of the soft start, children in playground until 9am. She felt the soft start was safer as children not left in playground by childminders etc with other parents in the playground at the same time. SC says he understands concerns but HQ have said that all Covid mitigation must end. Parents who have older children said they felt it was never a safety concern and SC confirmed the playground is staffed from 8.45 with support staff and senior management. Gates are supervised and any parent is welcome to stand back in the playground or at the fences to wait for their child to go in which is what used to happen for many children. LG asking if the same for nursery as a few parents concerned but SC asks her to pass on that the children will very quickly get used to the new plans and to give them a bit of time. Very much welcomed by the teaching staff who can use the time for extra planning and setup.

SL asking is it possible to make support staff more visible, SC said he can raise , CF states that the children know who all the support staff are so its not really required for them.

### **PE Uniform**

SC asking if the parents feel that the change that children wear PE kit to school on gym days should remain instead of returning to changing for gym.

RM representing the teachers and says its so much better, no time wasted getting changed and also children can feel uncomfortable changing in front of others so another reason to keep it. SC feels only negative is that grey area of children not wearing the correct uniform despite guidance that it's a white polo shirt and plain black leggings or joggers. PS asks if an email is sent home to advise parents that their child should be in uniform if they come in

casual gym gear but SC says no as its not the childs decision so better to influence with reminders in the newsletter etc. SC asks RM to speak to the rest of the teachers to see how they feel.

### **HT Report**

Next year still configured at 13 classes with many years completely full, however thanks to all schools being given permanent additionality and PEF funding we wont be losing a teacher. Also early years funding will fund an NQT which will release the Principal Teacher to continue to focus on PEF.

Hopefully all children will find out their class for next year by the end of next week, though this is subject to change.

### **Cost of the School day**

Traditionally in a year the school asks for money for non uniform days, book fayre, school, discos, p7 lockerbie excursion, p7 swimming block, school trip, easter craft, health week, p7 hoodies and the wear yellow walk.

SC asking if parents feel that these are essential due to SLC asking all schools to look at what they ask parents to contribute.

Things like non uniform days, health week, discos and book fayre are events when the money comes back into the school and directly supports the activities of the children and the PC all agreed that these events should continue but made clear it's a donation, potential for a donation option in parentpay so those who can afford to could donate a bit more to support those who cant afford it.

PS says shes looked at Parentpay and there is an option to save within it. KM maybe a good idea to make this clear that parents can put a small amount aside, especially in the years before P7 so that they have the funds to cover Lockerbie.

SL asking about nursery but SC and AP both confirm that there is no fundraising in the nursery.

SC asking about school trips, the issue is the cost of transport which is why no trips this year as there had been no funds saved up in last few years. SM asking if the participatory element of the PEF fund can be used and SC said this was a good idea. The pupils are involved in deciding this 5% of the PEF fund but he thinks they'd support it going on travel for school trips, SC says its potentially £3.5k. PS agrees this is a good use for the money.

PS also says can parents have plenty of notice for anything that might cost money, even if its just wear a certain colour of tshirt.

FK suggests that things like themes for the leavers do can encourage people to spend more than they needed, make sure you consider if a theme will create peer pressure to buy a new outfit.

### **Cost of SL Leisure events**

SC making PC aware that SL Leisure charge the school for attending events such as football tournaments and the school is usually asked to pay these at the start of the school year which is why Woodhead did not attend any of the SL Leisure events despite previously having done very well. SM will raise this issue with the SLC Forum stating that children in more deprived areas are missing out on these sporting opportunities. Cllr Keatts says he will

look into this as he also agrees its not fair for schools to have to pay upfront to attend these events or miss out on SLL events because a school doesn't have the funds for cost of the event and travel.

**SM to add to the agenda for next meeting**

Date for next meeting Tues 6<sup>th</sup> September which will also be the AGM, starting at 6.30pm  
LM volunteered to take minutes at next meeting until a secretary is agreed as FK is standing down as her son is finished at the school.

SM asking SC and RM to pass on the thanks of the PC to all the staff in the school for keeping what has been a hard year for them, very normal and safe for the children.