



Minutes of Meeting held 15th November 2022

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting (15th September 2022) and matters arising
3. Head Teacher Report
4. Treasurer Update
5. Fundraising Group Update
6. Stirling Council Organisation of Classes Policy
7. Dates of Future Meetings

1. Welcome & Apologies

Present:

David Williams (Chair)	Lorraine Slabbert (Head)
Andrew Buchanan (Vice-Chair)	Shirley Gallivan (Depute)
Lynsey Matthew (Secretary)	Ruth Allan (Depute)
Bob Charlesworth (Treasurer)	Kay Robertson (Council Rep)
Mhairi Bowley	Gillian Robertson (Council Rep)
Sarah Sutherland	Toby Morrison
Ruth Bland	Anneli Spence (Member)
Lauren Freckleton (Member)	Linsey Macmillan
Ann Marie Neilson	Morag Sorbie (Member)

Jay Burgess	Jordan Black (Member)
Alison Webster (Member)	Alison Dadun
Barry Whyte	Jennifer Mackie
Joanne Gudgeon	

Apologies:

Rona Lockyer (Member)

David welcomed everyone to the meeting (held virtually over Google Meet) and extended a warm welcome to Kay Robertson and Gillian Robertson who joined the virtual meeting on behalf of Stirling Council. It was decided to amend the order of the agenda slightly and to begin with item six, the Stirling Council Organisation of Classes Policy.

6. Stirling Council Organisation of Classes Policy

Gillian Robertson introduced herself as a member of the broad general Education Team at Stirling Council. Her colleague Kay Robertson is also a member.

Gillian explained that it was three years since the last review of the Classroom Organisation Policy and that the review that is taking place this time is deeper and wider and is being carried out across Scotland. Kay began by explaining that Dunblane Primary has been selected as a focus group as part of the review process. Parents have also had the opportunity to express their views in an online survey. Kay could confirm that parents are well represented at Dunblane Primary and lots of responses were received.

In addition to the online survey sent out to parents and the parent focus group, staff, pupils and SMT have also been consulted.

The format is similar across the board, the main questions being, what works well and what could we do better.

Gillian gave a synopsis of how classes are currently organised in Stirling Council in line with the existing national guidelines and the organisation of classes policy. Staffing is allocated following P1 enrolment and the total number of P7 pupils who are leaving to go on to secondary school. Spaces across year groups must also be considered, so too does the national guidance on classes sizes. The current criteria for the organisation of composite classes are in the first instance set by date of birth, taking into account any additional support needs and insuring there is also a gender balance across the class.

After an initial overview, Gillian welcomed the parent forum to take part in an online discussion. Using a padlet, an online resource where parents could document their points of view anonymously in order to gain feedback on some of the following questions.

- What works well currently when children are changing classes?
- What are the challenges in relation to how classes are organised?
- Advantages of using learning groups?

- Disadvantages of using learning groups?
- Advantages of considering friendship groups?

There was an extensive discussion with contributions made both verbally and recorded via text on the Padlet format. Gillian and Kay have made a note of all the comments and will collate for data analysis as part of the review process.

To conclude this item on the agenda it was asked what the timeline for the review was. Gillian and Kay explained it was their intention to be able to take the review to the Children & Young People's Committee in February. It is impossible to predict what the outcome will be, it could be to go away and collate more data. However, if policy amendments were made and approved by the committee it would be their hope that the new amended policy would be ready for the next academic year.

2. Approve Minutes from previous meeting (15th September 2022)

Minutes approved by David; seconded by Andrew.

Action from previous minutes:

None taken

3. Head Teacher Report

See Appendix 1

A discussion took place regarding the Reading Books section of the Head Teacher Report. It was discussed that the school have begun to look at what reading material the school have currently and are looking to find an interim solution in the form of online texts, e-readers. Lorraine highlighted some of the advantages of buying into this online resource. Pupils would have access to over a thousand texts, which are consistently updated to ensure content is both modern and engaging for young readers. Access to these texts can be done through android or smart devices as well as on chrome books.

Some parents did note their reservations about offering an online reading scheme, with a particular concern over increased levels of screentime. Lorraine countered that this would be up to the parents to manage children's levels of screen time and that physical texts would still be available to pupils. Lorraine highlighted that due to budget restraints that it has meant in turn that staff are needing to think differently in order to meet the demands for variety, quantity and diversity of texts in the short term. The decision to go ahead with the e-readers scheme has therefore been predominately financial.

This discussion did prompt some further clarity on what money has been donated to the school from the Parent Council to help enhance the school's reading book scheme. David is going to look back at the Treasurers Reports to confirm what funds were donated for this purpose.

4. Treasurer Update:

The current balance is reported as being £11,655.43

Bob is going to carry out a full handover from Susan on Thursday.

5. Fundraising Group Update:

Lauren updated on how much was raised from a very successful evening of Halloween discos. A total of £1800. The decision to make the discos as accessible as possible by offering a flat ticket price bore no impact on fundraising success. Using ParentPay to purchase tickets worked well. There was also less cash on the night which in turn meant it was easier to get the collected cash to the bank.

The next up and coming event is the Parent Council Christmas Movie Night on the 8th December. This will be a donation only event at the door. We intend to use Eventbrite as a way of reserving a place for the event.

Some discussions were made regarding the idea of requesting cleaners as part of the Let for the Movie Night event. However, the cost implications meant that it was felt that as long as there are plenty of helpers, the cleaning up would hopefully not be too much of an onerous task.

The fundraising group will also be collecting donations for our annual Christmas Drinks Sleigh Raffle over the coming weeks.

Some staff members have also requested that any future discos may not be held on a Friday evening. As they run late, it had been felt that a Friday night would work best for children's bedtimes etc. However, Lauren has said that when it comes to organising the same event next year the point will be put out to the committee for further discussion.

6. Future Meetings

Thursday 26th January 2023 – Online

Thursday 14th March 2023

Thursday 18th May 2023

The point was brought up regarding the possibility of returning to face-to-face Parent Council meetings. The current default position is to be online but following our next meeting in January David and Lorraine are happy to have a chat about the possibility of returning to face-to-face meetings.

