

Mid Calder Primary Parent Council

Minutes of meeting occurring on 21 Nov 2018

Stand-in Chair: Mairi Green

Stand-in Secretary: Alison Fulton

Head Teacher Report:

Mrs Thurlow provided an introduction confirming she is new to the Head Teacher (HT) role, the and assessing the school initially.

Changes made to date include:

- New behaviour report system
 - System for encouragement of positive values. Pupil Support Workers (PSWs) are dealing with more behavioural issues directly and less issues going to senior management however the PSW inform class teachers and senior leadership are involved as needed.
- Playground improvements working with the PSA including items such as markings, playboards and a goal to put steps and posts up to the field.
- Looking at first aid procedures including how the school deals with allergies.
- Fire procedures and drills
- Leadership & Management of staff. Teachers have been involved on rearrangement of classrooms including implementing language and Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) hubs. Mrs Ramsey oversees the nursery now. Spent time looking at wellbeing and nurture as an ethos in the all classes across the school.
- The principal teacher has been working on developing the young workforce including a student teacher and an Edinburgh university Master of Arts student being on placement in the school as well as several trainee nursery nurses.
- Support for learning teacher currently on maternity leave and Mrs Alsop is filling this role.
- Shared responsibility in curriculum areas and staff have an increased focus on Continuing Professional Development (CPD) including PSWs attending a PSW conference and professional development interviews with all staff which in addition to CPD helps with staff morale.
- Staff doing peer reviews
- PSA grounds clearance
- Working more closely with the gala committee and with Mr. Povey
- Encouraging volunteers to come into the school
- Building closer relationships with cluster schools
 - Partnering with West Calder High School (WCHS) on maths
 - Cluster writing moderation
- Thera pet – New partnership in nursery which is being further developed
- Collaborating with adoption Scotland. Mrs Ramsey has attended a conference
- Rotary club have agreed to make raised flower beds for front playground and a Rota club is being run in school from Jan 2019 where children get involved in fundraising.

- Homework – following a good response to the homework consultation changes implemented
- Twice monthly HT newsletter
- Use of visual cues for younger children for corrections
- HT weekly learning walks and formal jotter reviews
- Book week focus with multiple authors visiting the school and meeting with the children
- More musical involvement e.g. choir
- Call out cards implemented – Select children are given a call out card and may show this if needed when in any situation to allow them the opportunity to speak to a trusted adult in the school. Positive feedback to date.
- Friendship groups to help the children with challenging situations such as the loss of a person they were close too.
- Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) money being used for resilience training

Parental Financial Contributions:

It was asked if values that are being asked for can be considered and discussed. HT and deputy HT shared that the budget was challenging but hope that there can be some juggling. There will be a note in the newsletter about parental contributions and it discussed with the PSA if there can be a suggested donation amount to allow for flexibility. It was also confirmed at least 3 weeks notices should be provided in advance of school trips.

There was positive feedback regarding PSA communication on what money is being spent on.

P7 – Hoodies, leavers outing and leavers party:

It was queried if the above will be occurring. It was confirmed by HT that all are going ahead. Hoodies are now ordered for P7 and there are no concerns with getting hoodies however it was confirmed if future years the process of ordering will begin after the Easter holidays.

PSA ringfence money for the leavers outing however parent volunteers will be required in order to support outing. The children will fundraise for their leavers party.

House Parties:

It was queried if house parties will continue as done previously (e.g. a party held at the start of each term, for the house with the highest number of points at the end of the previous term). HT confirmed she wants to celebrate wins, but the cost of parties held previously is untenable, however there are other ways to mark success. The House Captains have been given some guidance and are thinking about what would work for all the children in the house and are being more creative.

AOB:

It was queried if the dates of the class Christmas parties could be issued ASAP. HT confirmed this would be done.

HT confirmed that P3 will perform at the church ahead of the torchlight ceremony along with children in the choir and those who play brass instruments, in the village, and P2 and P1 pupils will perform the nativity shows in the school.

Date of Next Meeting:

Mid Calder Primary
Parent Council Meeting
21 Nov 2018

Monday 14 Jan 2018 at 18.30

Action	Owner	Status
Confirm if parents who choose to volunteer at the school need to pay for a Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) check	HT	Open
Discuss with PSA if donations for some events can be suggested	HT/ER	Open
Issue communication with dates of class Christmas parties	HT	Open