

# Struthers Primary School



## Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7pm

**Present:** Craig Dalziel (Clerk), Jane Houston (HT), Eilidh McBean (DHT), Catherine Barclay, Angela Boyd, Claire Kirk, Kath Brearley (Staff), Lucy Lockie (Staff), Kirsty Neil (Staff), Corrie Duncan, Susan Kirk, Andrea Baird, Kerrie Wyllie (Staff)

**Apologies:** Kirsten Gallacher (Chairperson), Lisa Conetta (Vice-Chairperson), Lucy Mullan, Lynne Miller

### 1. Welcome and Introduction

Kirsten and Lisa were both unable to attend so Claire chaired the meeting and she welcomed all those present and thanked them for their attendance.

### 2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the January meeting were unanimously approved.

### 3. School Updates

Jane advised that building work had started on the AV room which is being transformed into a community room with funding from the Pupil Equity Fund. Staff had stayed late on 7<sup>th</sup> March to help clear out AV Room and Library and items were being boxed up and labelled. Jane added that further decoration would be required during the summer holidays as an additional classroom will be needed from August which will see the art room redesigned back to a classroom.

Jane commented that the open door policy of staff remains in place but it may not always be possible to speak to staff before school starts in the morning, however they will make the time to see parents as soon as possible. She added that all staff communication must go through the school mail box.

On another issue Jane commented that it was unacceptable for Parents to approach other children in a derogatory manner and that any issues should be directed to staff. Jane advised that a parent had asked about the school's anti-bullying policy, she advised that the school needs to update this but it cannot be updated until national and South Ayrshire guidelines have been updated first. Staff advised that Struthers is now on Twitter and encouraged as many parents to sign up as possible and going forward a photograph of a particular school activity will be uploaded daily under the theme "Every day is a learning day". The Twitter account can be found under @StruthersSchool.

#### 4. Fundraising

Claire advised that she would be resigning from the Fundraising group at the next meeting. The AGM has been pushed back to May and new members would be required to keep the group going. Upcoming initiatives include Easter Eggs and Gym Bags. The disco in February was well attended and the final amount raised was to be confirmed. Possible fundraising activities going forward that were suggested included a beetle drive and a sponsored bounce.

#### 5. Pupil Equity Fund Consultation

Struthers has received £32,400 worth of funding from the Pupil Equity Fund which is a Holyrood Govt initiative. The amount is based on a formula calculated by the number of children who receive a free school meal. The funding is being used for the AV room decoration and is aimed at boosting parental engagement by creating an area for parents to come into the school and meet/share ideas, as well as engage with staff and pupils. The PEF is aimed at reducing the attainment gap between pupils. It has been identified that Struthers does not have an apparent attainment gap and as a result the PEF money will be used to contribute towards increasing parental engagement as studies have shown that pupils whose parents have less engagement with their school work have less attainment than those who have increased parental involvement. Jane advised that 2 current members of staff would be appointed as Acting Principal Teachers to oversee the transformation of the AV Room and the project as a whole. In addition it is hoped that the school will be able to secure additional classroom assistant hours going forward and an interactive whiteboard will be installed using the funds. When the decoration is completed it is hoped that possible events would include inviting health visitors to the school, events to showcase pupils work and holding the PC meetings in the room.

#### 6. AOB

It was discussed that few parents had attended the meeting tonight and it is hoped more will attend in future; particular encouragement will be given to nursery parents. An idea of occasional afternoon parent council meetings was also floated in conjunction with the regular evening meetings which some parents may find it easier to attend. This could link in with the re-opening of the AV Room as a meeting place.

#### 7. Date of Next Meeting- **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm**

