

# Struthers Primary School



## Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting 5th September 2018 at 6pm

**Present:** Craig Dalziel (Clerk/Acting Chair), Lucy Mullan (Vice-Chairperson), Gail McKellar (HT), Lucy Lockie (APT), Darren Haniford (APT), Susan Kirk, Catherine Barclay, Gail Whyte, Fiona Taylor, Kirsty Allan, Linda Bowie, Kellee Quinn, Lindsey Bonellie and Susan Geddes.

**Apologies:** Lynne Miller, Kirsten Gallacher (Chairperson) and Eilidh McBean (DHT),

### 1. Welcome and Introduction

In Kirsten's absence Craig welcomed all those present thanked them for their attendance.

### 2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved.

### 3. School Updates

Mrs McKellar opened her Head Teacher's report by advising staff allocation this year is 14 full time staff and one part time staff member who teaches 2.5 days. Mrs Edgar is 0.5 and is currently providing additional support in P1 and P2. The school roll is now 284 and any remaining places at the school were now protected for those in the catchment area and therefore no placing requests will be accepted. A text has been issued to parents advising this along with the council's redirect policy. This in effect includes a waiting list for those who have been unable to obtain a place being offered one should pupils move out of the area. Gail added that Education Scotland came out to the school on the 19<sup>th</sup> June to discuss this and feedback from parents and staff included concerns raised that it appeared no strategic assessment was in place from the council regarding the school needing additional classroom space. Education Scotland will feed this back to South Ayrshire Council.

The extension to the hall is due to start in October and preparations are under way which will see the intercom at the main entrance moved at the September weekend as Carrie and Elaine will be moving into the Janitor's office while the staff room, office and HT office are renovated. Staff will move to the community room while this is ongoing and unfortunately this means that events in the community room will be limited this year, Gail added that she will be meeting with the contractors soon to discuss the Health and Safety implications of the construction work. In addition over the summer holidays the school kitchen was renovated and a paper is now with the SAC leadership panel to decide whether the kitchen will go back to the previous system of making meals rather than ordering from Muirhead but there is no timescale available for a decision on this. Gail added that it had become very apparent since pupils returned that there is simply not enough space in the gym hall to accommodate packed lunches and school lunches at the same time even with a staggered system. As a result P4-P7 are to have their packed lunch in class supervised by Mrs Power.

The school will also be moving to a cashless catering system and letters will be issued regarding this in the near future.

Gail moved on to another topic of reporting. SAC are proposing changes as to how pupil's progress is reported. At present there are 2 parent's meetings per year and a written report. The proposal is for the written report to be dropped in place of 3 tracking reports plus an additional parents meeting. In addition in June every year every child will receive a prediction report from their outgoing class teacher as to where they expect them to be at the same time next year. This is going to be a pilot for the whole authority and is expected to include an online system, however Gail advised that this is not ready yet for implementation and she will provide further updates on this. Other items discussed were as follows:

- Weekly bulletin is to move to a monthly newsletter and will be different to the current version with the sections on Rights Respecting Schools and the Improvement Plan removed following feedback from parents. It will also now be issued as a paper copy to all pupils but will be available on the school website as usual. It was also agreed that the PC Minutes/Agenda would be sent out the Friday before each meeting regardless of whether this was the day the newsletter was issued.
- The Welcome Night will be on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> Sept from 6pm-7pm.
- School Committees – Gail is hoping to re-introduce the Pupil Council and also give pupils the options of joining committees they show an interest in rather than all pupils being automatically enrolled in a committee.

#### 4. Fundraising Update

Kirsty opened the fundraising discussion in her first meeting as Joint Chair by advising Corrie had done a detailed handover and this was still ongoing. The fundraising team have decided to go back to having separate meetings from the Parent Council as happened in the past. The first is scheduled for Tue 18<sup>th</sup> Sept at 6.30pm in the school and will generally be 2 weeks after every PC meeting. Susan will send out a note on Facebook again asking for new members. Kirsty advised that Carrie has organised the P7 hoodies and this was all in order. A date was to be agreed for the next disco and following discussion it was agreed this would take place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October.

#### 5. AOB

Lucy M advised that Kirsten has been made aware of a Facebook page for all the PC chairs which advises on PC dates across the authority to avoid clashes with the meetings of all chairs when these take place.

#### 6. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 6pm.

