

# Struthers Primary School



## Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 6.30pm

**Present:** Kirsten Gallacher (Chairperson), Craig Dalziel (Clerk), Lisa Conetta (Vice-Chairperson), Jane Houston (HT), Eilidh McBean (DHT), Catherine Barclay (P4) Lynne Miller (P6), Angela Boyd, Claire Kirk, Lucy Mullan (P3), Kath Brearley (Staff), Ashley Love (Staff)

**Apologies:** Corrie Duncan, Cllr Peter Convery

### 1. Welcome and Introduction

Kirsten welcomed all those present and thanked them for their attendance.

### 2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the November meeting were unanimously approved.

### 3. School Updates

Jane opened this discussion by welcoming everyone back after the holidays and welcomed Eilidh to her first PC meeting.

#### Staffing

Jane advised that Gordon Wilson had been promoted and moved to Kingcase as Principal Teacher. Mr Alistair Cole has been appointed as the new Primary 5 teacher and is hoping to start as soon as possible but is serving a 4 week notice period at his school in Glasgow. In the interim Miss Watson will be taking the class for a few weeks before Mr Cole arrives. Jane also advised that Margaret Roxburgh officially retired at Christmas and Carrie Maley has transferred to the Clerical team permanently. Carrie's approx. 12 hours of classroom assistant time has been given to Carol-Ann Power and Marion Boyd and they will now work full time. Jane had been using the absence budget and school budget to plug the gap following the dramatic reduction in classroom assistant hours at the start of the session but now the 12 hours were now being funded by the council budget. Mrs Hull is also in the school 20 hours a week but this is for an individual pupil and is separate from the other hours. Matt the Janitor remains absent on long term sick leave and is hoping to return but it is unclear when he will be able to do so.

#### School Activities

There will be a focus on reading this term for P4-P7 and new resources have been bought for this. Mrs Love gave a short run down on the Reading for Enjoyment programme for P4-P7 which has been very well received. The school library needs a clear out of older books to make way for newer books that have been bought for the book club and Lucy offered to assist with this and a general reorganisation of the library resources. Mrs Love asked if it would be possible for some funds for some new

audio books and additional materials including some new chairs/sofa's for the library. She also advised that donations of books from parents would also be very welcome. In addition a book swap programme will be implemented and pupils will participate in the First Minister's Reading for Gold initiative. Jane advised that she will be out of school on occasions this session as she is away on a Scottish Improvement Leadership Cohort initiative which will look at ways of improving methodologies. Jane's focus project will be reading and will examine how to meet reading expectations and which books/topics will make a difference to children.

Jane opened a discussion on future residential trips for P6/P7. The school feel that Dolphin House is not providing as much value for money as it used to and feel that it may be better for a bigger trip in P7 rather than continue the trips in their current form and Jane would like feedback from parents on this matter. This year P7 are visiting Inverclyde sports complex for 2 days and Struthers is one of the first to do so. It is hoped perhaps that in future years this could be extended to 5 days. Other options being considered is the outdoor learning and development team visiting the school to provide sporting activities and a P5 drip to Dynamic Earth. Kath Brearley commented that Dolphin House was different now than what it used to be as there is a lot more "downtime" for the pupils and also Jane and Kath commented that parents this year were finding it hard to cover the costs of the trip. Jane again stressed that she would appreciate feedback from parents and the parent council going forward on this.

Finally Jane issued a handout on "Assessing Children's Progress" which was a guide to the standardised assessment programme being rolled out by the Holyrood Government. This gave details on the new standardised assessments that Primaries 1, 4 and 7 will be undertaking in the coming years.

#### 4. Fundraising

Claire advised that on the day the Christmas Fayre raised £1303.64 and Kirsten advised that the Christmas card sale had raised £1180 however a fee for the printers would be deducted from this. The sale of the cards and calendars had gone well, 251 packs of cards had been ordered and the final amount raised from the calendars was to be confirmed. The fundraising group Annual General Meeting will be held in March and 12 people are required to be in attendance for this. Upcoming activities include a school disco on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb, letter will be issued soon and the team are looking to arrange a beetle drive – this will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### 5. AOB

Lucy asked about the incident that occurred at the Xmas Fayre. Jane advised that a small group of disgruntled parents had been very rude to members of staff which had greatly upset the staff concerned given the amount of time and effort that had been put in to organising the Fayre. She went on to a wider point that running the Xmas Fayre in the school is becoming intolerable due to the lack of space in the school, particularly in the infant end and asked for feedback to rectify this next year. A discussion then took place as to whether it could be moved to another venue. Kirsten

suggested Muirhead activity centre and Craig commented that a number of years ago the Fayre was held at the Walker Hall. Jane asked if the fundraising group could discuss this ahead of next year. Kirsten asked if it would be appropriate to invite the local councillors into the school to view the problems encountered by the lack of space in general terms. It was agreed that Kirsten would email and ask the councillors to visit the school before they finish up ahead of the local elections in May.

#### 6. Date of Next Meeting

Due to the inservice day on the 14th the next meeting will be on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm**

