

# Struthers Primary School



## Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 6.30pm

**Present:** Kirsten Gallacher (Chairperson), Craig Dalziel (Clerk), Jane Houston (HT), Morag MacKenzie (DHT), Cllr Peter Convery, Jane Laws (P1), Catherine Barclay (P3), Lindsey Bonellie (Nursery), Corrie Duncan (P7), David Smith (P6)

**Apologies:** Morag Leslie-Smith (P6), Lisa Conetta (Vice-Chairperson), Chris Mullan (P2)

### 1. Welcome and Introduction

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

### 2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the March meeting were unanimously approved.

### 3. School Updates

Jane opened this discussion by advising the school role for next year will rise to approximately 225 and the class structure will be P1, P1/2, P2, P3, P3/4, P4, P5, P6 and P7 which is a total of 9 classes. Despite the school role rising staff numbers will decrease and Jane has concerns about this. The Primary 1 class is likely to have 24 pupils. Jane also advised that the nursery is full in the morning slot and there are 2 spaces remaining in the afternoon slot in addition to emergency spaces. All placing requests and appeals have been completed and there are still a significant number of placing requests despite the change in the school catchment. In addition the school will also take a significant hit again in the reduction of support staff hours and Jane commented on how challenging this would be going forward. Morag and Jane will also have a fair amount of class contact time next session.

The school are currently collating ideas for the school improvement plan. The key focus going forward will be raising attainment in both Literacy and Numeracy which are also Government initiatives. Struthers has a high attainment rate in Numeracy and the target will be to sustain this high standard. There will also be a focus on early years as some children in the nursery will be attending for a full day. Jane commented that she will be meeting with the children this week to discuss this and would also welcome further comments from the Parent Council. Jane will also be holding discussions with staff regarding the proposed new Named Persons Legislation.

#### 4. Parent Council Constitution

Kirsten advised that the work required to update the constitution would be continuing into next year. Craig commented that Cllr McFarlane had sent the text relating to equalities which would need to be included in the updated constitution. Kirsten advised that she would send round the constitution as it stands before any changes are made and would welcome comments from other Parent Council members going forward on what they considered should be added to the new constitution. This item was carried forward and will be discussed further next term.

#### 5. Parent Survey Feedback

Jane issued a handout detailing the results of the parent survey. The school received 61 replies out of 164 families which equates to a 37% response rate. The handout showed that out of the 15 questions asked 12 of them had increased in agreement percentages and the other 3 stayed the same but these were already at a 100% agreement rate, these were “my child feels safe at school”, “my child is treated fairly at school” and “the school is helping my child to become more confident”. Kirsten had a table at parent’s night and unfortunately had a very limited response for suggestions. Kirsten met with Jane and had suggested meeting up with the Pupil Council to hear their opinions particularly in relation to their Rights Respecting Schools work as the children are due to feedback on this to Jane and other staff. Jane advised the Pupil Council are meeting regularly at present and she would pass dates to Kirsten.

#### 6. Standard and Quality Audit

Jane opened a discussion on the Standard and Quality Audit. This is a legislative document of approx. sixteen pages which is posted on the school website annually. The document includes information on the activities of each class throughout the year, as well as Curriculum for Excellence data, KEMS data and priorities for the upcoming year. Jane has been working with the Head Teachers from Dundonald and Ayr Grammar at looking to improve this document to make it more accessible to parents. Jane is looking for feedback and suggestions from parents and the Parent Council on how to make improvements to this and would welcome new ideas.

#### 7. AOB

Kirsten advised that 3 Parents had met with Hillary Iannotti from South Ayrshire Council and had sampled school lunches, this was a successful exercise and Hillary met with pupils to hear their views. From Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May a new ordering system will be in place which is reverting to a model that had previously been used which will allow more choice for the pupils. Hillary advised Kirsten that any decision to alter catering arrangements in the future will be decided by the council and also in relation to more space being created in the dinner hall. Corrie asked if the school would look at extending lunch back to one hour due to capacity problems. Jane advised that there would be a shortage of support staff to cover lunch and it also cuts into teaching

time. Morag advised that at least two more tables are required but there is the additional problem of storage for these.

Kirsten asked for 3 volunteers to help at the P7 cluster disco on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 6.30-8.30pm

Kirsten advised that she had received an email from a parent commenting on poor availability of uniform items from Tesco. Those present commented that this is occasionally a problem but the key was to order early to avoid delays, in addition uniform items are still available from Emblem.

### 8. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed amongst those present that due to the fact that June is an exceptionally busy month the next meeting of the Parent Council would not take place until after the summer holidays. The next meeting was scheduled for **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September** - Time TBC.

