

Struthers Primary School



Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting Wednesday 10th May 2023 6.15pm

Present: Lucy Mullan (Chairperson), Craig Dalziel (Clerk), Gail McKellar (HT), Lucy Lockie (Acting Depute HT), Gillian Garven, Cllr Craig McKay, Ewol Winter, Stephanie Ritchie and Laura Clark (Incoming HT)

Apologies: Paul Murray (Vice Chairperson), Gillian Baillie

1. Welcome and Introduction

Lucy welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.

2. School Updates

Gail opened her report by advising that Wednesday 24th May would be her last day at Struthers and introduced Laura Clark to the group. Laura's first official day will be Tuesday 30th May which is the inservice day. Laura has already met the children at assembly and will be in the school several days between now and her start date to discuss a handover. One of the main issues to resolve is next sessions class structure, Gail advised this is very challenging this year and explained there will again be a number of composite classes including in P1/2. The criteria for a composite class is that the numbers will not exceed 25 in total. There will be 60 new P1's next session and this comes from 10 early years centres. Normally the P1 teachers would go out to the early years centres and meet the pupils but this is not possible this time due to the 10 different establishments feeding in to P1.

There will be interviews for teaching staff scheduled for the 2nd week in June and there will be at least 4 posts advertised for.

The old nursery room is to be converted back to a classroom with work starting around 5th June, this room is likely to be for the P1/2 composite.

Other topics Gail covered included:

- P6 were visiting Marr for a transition event on 19th May
- National Testing was currently underway for P1, P4 and P7, results were due back at school in June.
- P3, P5 and P6 were undertaking JL assessments which is South Ayrshire Council testing.
- Eilidh McBean is returning as Depute in August but only 2 days per week. In the interim Lucy will continue to cover the other 3 days.
- Bump up day is Tues 13th June.

Finally Gail was asked about school trips (in relation to the recent P7 WW2 trip) and whether this was year group specific or class specific. She advised that sometimes this was dependant on the topics being studied as pupils can't do the same topics 2 years in a row and it was also at the discretion of the class teacher. In some instances, all of the composite class pupils would go on trips but in other instances it may just be a specific year group such as P7. Gail also advised that school funds were dwindling this year because school trips have been heavily subsidised. At a recent HT meeting Gail met with Melissa McCulloch from SAC who is helping schools

to identify funding sources and advised she would be happy to discuss opportunities with the Parent Council.

3. Fundraising Update

Gillian gave a brief update and started by saying unfortunately there was insufficient helpers to proceed with a summer fayre at present. It was discussed potentially looking at a September date instead when new P1 parents may be able to help. The sponsored bounce will take place during Sports Day and will be held indoors in order that it can still go ahead even if the weather is inclement.

The group is also intending to have a presence at the Welcome Evening on Tues 23rd June.

4. AOB

Cllr McKay raised the ongoing concerns regarding road safety around Staffin Road and Deveron road which included inconsiderate parking and excessive speed. Further to the February minutes he is keen for Struthers to be considered as a pilot school for the restricted driving at peak times initiative. It was agreed that the Parent Council wanted to move forward in expressing an interest in this to the Ayrshire Roads Alliance and that a letter would be drafted for the ARA. A parent had also raised the lack of zebra crossings in the immediate area of the school including towards the Meadowgreen centre. Cllr McKay said he was happy to raise this with the ARA as well as the other issues discussed.

Cllr McKay also discussed the landscaping around the new Nursery and said that there had been some issues with drainage beside the properties in Garry Place and further work will need to be undertaken regarding this, also the grass would be reseeded where machinery had been operating during the works.

5. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 7th June at 2pm

