

Struthers Primary School



Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting 5th September 2017 at 7pm

Present: Kirsten Gallacher (Chairperson), Craig Dalziel (Clerk), Lisa Conetta (Vice-Chairperson), Jane Houston (HT), Eilidh McBean (DHT), Lucy Lockie (APT), Kirsty Neil (APT), Lauren Glass (Staff), Melissa McKay (Staff), Corrie Duncan, Susan Kirk, Catherine Barclay, Julie Matheson, Lynne Miller, Andrea Baird, Connie Murray, Fiona Armstrong, Lauren Lawson, Gillian Garven, Fiona Taylor, Susie Greig, Clare Kennedy

Apologies: Lucy Mullan and Janet Smyth

1. Welcome and Introduction

Kirsten welcomed all those present to the new community room and thanked them for their attendance in what was the best attended meeting for some time.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the March meeting were unanimously approved.

3. School Updates

Jane opened her report by advising that it had been a very good start to the new session. The nursery is now almost full and the school roll is 258 which is now the second biggest in the cluster after Troon primary. New members of staff include Miss Glass, Mr Kerr and Mr Sturdy who is joining Mrs Lockie in P7. Mrs Love is now on maternity leave and a new member of staff has been appointed to cover this. One of the priorities this session will be the Curriculum Rationale and this was discussed at the recent welcome evening. Jane would be grateful for continuing feedback from parents on this project going forward. Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing will be key themes again this session. South Ayrshire Council has selected Struthers for a Health and Wellbeing survey and this will be coming out on Fri 8th Sept. Another new initiative that the school is looking to implement is a structured conflict resolution programme. Jane advised that pupils do not feel bullying is a problem at the school but that there are occasional fall-outs between friends and this new initiative would help going forward.

Jane also discussed the new community room and explained how the Pupil Equity Fund money had been used to create it. She handed over to Lucy and Kirsty to give a brief overview of what it would be used for in the future. One of the main priorities is to encourage parents to come in and regularly use the facility, events coming up include P1 and P2 coffee and catch up meetings, meetings with the local ministers and the room will also be used for the Parent Council meetings. They added they would be keen to hear more suggestions as to events that could be held in the coming months.

4. Fundraising Update

Corrie opened the fundraising discussion in her first meeting as chairperson. She advised that she had received an email from Janet who was unable to attend tonight but advised that she would be happy to take on the role of Treasurer if no one else wished to do so and as no one else has come forward tonight she would ask Janet to take over.

In terms of events going forward discos are booked for 5th October and 1st March and letters will be issued regarding these. The Christmas Fayre will be 1st Dec between 5.30-7pm and Jane advised the pupils will be participating again through the finance fortnight. Corrie advised that some of the fundraising team will be unavailable during the day to set up and she would be grateful of any extra volunteers to help set up the stalls. The Christmas cards have also been organised and the team are grateful for the support of Alan at Copystop again this year. Kirsten advised she would be happy to be involved with this again but due to work commitments it may not be possible for her to do so. The calendar initiative will also be looked into again to find out if it will be feasible to do so this year. With regard to a summer fayre Corrie asked Jane if this could be held on the same day as Sports Day and the summer cup in order to maximise parental involvement and Jane was happy to do this.

A discussion then took place about possible future events to raise funds. Corrie commented that the bag packing at Morrisons was a particularly good earner but several helpers were needed. She suggested sending out a letter to parents asking when would the best time be for them to help i.e. Friday evening/Saturday or Sunday and it was agreed this was a good idea so that when it comes to putting times to Morrisons the team will know how many volunteers they will have. Corrie also asked for suggestions for future events and ideas included a psychic night and beetle drive and these will be considered going forward.

5. AOB

- Jane advised she had received a complaint from a resident in Garry Place regarding inconsiderate parking and she would put a notice in the newsletter asking parents to be courteous around resident's driveways.
- Julie commented that the path behind Staffin Road was very busy particularly at 3pm and a lot of children were cycling and asked if there was a possibility of the path being widened. Craig commented that South Ayrshire were no longer cutting the grass behind Staffin Road as it was now owned by residents whose property backed onto this and every resident had an equal share of it which includes the 3 properties at Mennock Lane.
- The Tuck shop in the Dinner Hall is now open again.
- A parent asked about talks given to P7 regarding Puberty. Jane advised that the school nurse was no longer doing this and school staff were to be trained to give the talks which was not ideal, particularly as pupils built up a relationship with the nurse before they went to Marr as she covers both schools.

6. Date of Next Meeting- Tuesday 7th November at 7pm in the Community Room.

