



# Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting

## Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019 at 2.00pm

### Struthers Primary School

**Present:** Gail McKellar (HT), Lucy Lockie (ADHT), Darren Haniford (APT), Lucy Mullan (Vice-Chairperson), Mrs MacKenzie (EYP) Catherine Barclay, Gail Whyte, Gillian Garven, Helen Hogg, Janet Smyth and Mari Clingan

**Apologies:** Eilidh McBean (DHT), Craig Daziel (Clerk/Acting Chair)

#### 1. Welcome and Introduction

Mrs Mullan asked Mrs McKellar to chair the meeting in Craig's absence. Mrs McKellar welcomed everyone and 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 sharing Miss McBean's sad news and contingency plans for the school in Miss McBean's absence. Mrs McKellar has shared the news with all classes apart from P2 who are on their school trip today so Mrs McKellar will speak to this class on their return. The parent council shared their deepest sympathies for Miss McBean and thanked Mrs McKellar for the sensitivity of her letter to all parents. The parent council agreed to send flowers to Miss McBean on behalf of the whole parent body. The school's QIO, Kate McDonald, will be in school tomorrow afternoon to allow Mrs McKellar and Mrs Lockie to attend the funeral. Mrs Lockie will also be absent from school for a minimum of 2 weeks due to surgery and so class cover has been arranged during this time. There will be additional supply teachers in the school over the next few weeks, unfamiliar to the pupils and parents, but essential to ensure all classes and NCCT is covered.

Mrs McKellar shared the results of the parent survey and briefly talked about the pupil survey which results for have just come back to school for and will be analysed in due course. The amount of returns of the parent survey were not great but results were strong. An area where percentages were low were surrounded the question of 'The school deals well with bullying'. However, many parents ticked that they had no experience of this which brought the percentages of 'agrees with this statement' down to 65%. The results of the pupil survey reflects this also with only 66% of pupils agreeing with this statement but 23% of pupils not having any experience of this. The school will address this next session with

the development of a policy linked in with SA bullying policy and with a coherent programme throughout the school to help children have a shared understanding of bullying. Parents thought this was a good idea as some children misinterpret bullying with feeling 'left out' and Mrs Hogg suggested a buddy bench in the playground be made from recycled plastic water bottles.

Mrs McKellar met with some parents individually with regards to their comments on the parent survey about development needs for the school such as outdoor learning and consistent approaches to communication. Some parents stated they were having trouble with the 'Group Call' App which all messages from the school will be through to ensure consistency. Mrs Maley will be able to help with issues surrounding the use of this app. In the pupil survey, 23% of pupils disagreed that homework benefits their learning. Findings from educational research shows the impact of homework on learner progress in early and first level to be low, however the impact in P7 and secondary school is higher. Mrs McKellar would like to address this next session with the development of a homework policy based on the views of pupils, staff and parents. Parents should express interest to the school about being part of a homework working group to obtain parental views to feed into the whole school policy.

Mrs MacKenzie told the group about the school allotment at Fullerton Woods and requested a parent group be set up to help with the upkeep of this, especially during the summer holidays. Tools and resources such as grass trimmers are on site and codes will be given to the parent group to allow access. Mrs Smyth has an allotment there and would be happy to set up a school allotment Facebook page which could be shared on class Facebook pages. Mrs McKellar will also mention this in her June newsletter.

#### **4. Fundraising Update**

Bag packing at Morrisons was very successful with over £600 being raised. Next session, the fundraising committee would like pupils to be more involved in this.

The Blazer Rental scheme is ongoing and it was suggested for a stall to be run at Sports Day and/or parents evening to sell lost property for a small donation. The EYC would like to be involved in this as they also have a wealth of lost property. Mrs Hogg has a volunteer who would be happy to wash the lost property in preparation for this and also has links with a community charity who provides school bags, blazers and uniforms for those requiring support and so lost property could be used to supplement this.

The parent council would like to invest in the playground next session and the school would be looking for some investment in an Outdoor Classroom to support our school improvement focus of Outdoor Learning. However, South Ayrshire Council will need to advise on this due to possible further extension plans.

The fundraising committee will continue to do family focussed events next session such as the fashion show, a movie night and a fayre.

It was suggested that Christmas Cards could be ready for sale earlier in the year next session to allow time for posting abroad.

#### **5. AOB**

Parents would like greater consistency regarding clothing on school trips. Parents suggested including what children should wear on school trips in the permission letters which Mrs McKellar agreed to.

On the last day of term, parents would like to ensure there is consistency across the school with regards to bringing in games and that board games would be allowed but no devices. The P7 transition disco will follow the same format as last year at Muirhead Activity Centre. Mrs Barclay will post a message on the P6 Facebook page to ask for helpers for this disco along with Mr Haniford and Mrs Bloomer who will attend. Helpers are required with the set-up, supervision of the disco and the clear up at the end so parent helpers could select time slots between 5.30pm and 9.00pm on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June.

Mrs Clingan suggested that due to the number of P1s, the P2s could do their own Christmas Carols show and the P1s could do a nativity next session. This will be suggested to class teachers.

## **6. Date of Next Meeting**

TBC next session