

Struthers Primary School



Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting 4th February 2020 at 2pm

Present: Craig Dalziel (Clerk), Lucy Mullan (Chairperson), Gail McKellar (HT), Gail Whyte, Gillian Garven, Lucy Lockie (APT) and Helen Hogg

Apologies: Darren Haniford (APT), Paul Murray (Vice Chairperson), Eilidh McBean (DHT), Cllr Convery and Cllr Pollok

1. Welcome and Introduction

Lucy welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

Last month's minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Head Teacher Report

Mrs McKellar opened her Head Teacher's report by advising that the new nursery planning application was still being considered. If the new nursery is not ready for August the current room will continue to be used and from August will be open 52 weeks a year. There are 30 places available in the morning and 30 in the afternoon, places will be balloted and there are various attendance options, including half day's and all day up to 6pm. Gail is hoping that by the next meeting there will be some clarity on the planning situation. With regard to staffing Mrs Brearley is absent but is hoping to be back within a week or so. Eilidh will be absent long term and the advert for the post of Acting Depute Head Teacher closes today. Registration numbers for P1 suggest that this would be more than 2 classes, therefore it will be up to the council to decide how to proceed with this but it will likely be into late April before class structures are decided.

Other Points that Gail covered included:

- 33 new Kindles and 4 chargers have been delivered for use across all classes
- New playground equipment and storage boxes ordered.
- School is aiming to be re-awarded as Gold for Rights Respecting Schools and visit for this takes place on Mon 24th Feb.
- The small perimeter fence at the car park has been removed for safety reasons and the council are due to plant trees as a replacement.
- Staff from council visited to discuss moving bike sheds but this is unlikely to be addressed in near future until there is clarity on nursery situation.
- Early years registration is on 24th Feb
- School has received the Dyslexia and Inclusive Practice Award becoming only the second school in South Ayrshire to achieve this and school received a glowing report from the assessors.
- There had been a number of negative comments on Social Media with regard to the scots poetry competition. Gail stated that this had been a part of the curriculum

for some time and it went very well again this year. Parents in attendance stated they wanted it to continue.

Finally Gail advised that it cost £692.00 for the buses to the church for the 3 visits over the course of the year and this was starting to prove problematic. When asked for donations from parents the response had been poor. Therefore the possibility of only visiting the church twice a year will have to be considered. A general discussion took place about which service could be held in the school with no agreement reached. Helen advised she would ask St Meddans if they would consider contributing to this but obviously she couldn't promise anything at this stage. Further discussions will need to be held on this matter in the near future.

(Article 23 "A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and independence and to play an active part in the community")

(Article 28 "Every child has the right to an education, primary education must be free")

(Article 29 "Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures and the environment.")

(Article 31 – Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.)

4. Pantomime

The school has received an early bird offer from the Gaiety to book the pantomime. Gail advised that normally the school has alternate years for visiting the theatre and a production coming to the school. Elaine Smith will price up the difference between the Gaiety and the Palace as positive feedback had been received about previous visits to the Palace.

5. Photographer

Gail advised a parent had complained about the quality of photos provided by Tempest recently. Gail asked the PC whether it was worth looking at another group or individual photographer as at her previous school they didn't use Tempest but on the other hand she was happy to continue with Tempest and is seeking views from the PC.

6. Fundraising Update

Gill advised the disco was arranged for 19th March and bag packing was arranged at Morrisons for 16th May, Morrisons have changed their policy recently and advised that no under 11's were allowed at the till meaning it is likely that it will only be P7 allowed to help staff/parents. The group are also looking to hold a movie night but are struggling to find a suitable date for this but discussions will continue.

(Article 15 – Every Child has a right to meet with other children and to join groups and organisations as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights)

(Article 31 – Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.)

7. AOB

NIL

8. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 12th March 2020 at 2pm.

