

## Parent Council, Fossoway Primary School

### Minutes of meeting 23/01/19

**Present:** Christina Smith (CS, chair), Mrs. Allan (FA, Head teacher), Mrs. Brown (LB), Susan Russell Darby (SRD), Rachel Charity (RC), Laura Sweet (LS), Jim Pritchard (JP), Sadie Watson (SW), Natalie Harrower (NH), Julie Savin (JS)

**Apologies:** Sheena Mitchell (SM), Adelaide Carlow (AC), Zoe Walthall (ZW)

1. **Minutes of Previous meeting** – approved as true record (proposed RC, seconded CS).

2. **Matters Arising**

*Community Council Link.* CS reported that there is due to be a meeting at the end of Jan regarding the proposed closure of Blairingone Primary School.

Roadworks to the school road / crook of Devon junction are due to be completed March 2019.

Realignment of A977 / B9097 junction due for completion June 2019.

*Playground Notice Board*

There are ground issues which will cause difficulties with installation of a new notice board. A new wall-mounted noticeboard, funded by the PTA, is now in place by the nursery. It was agreed by those present today that we should consider buying two more of these to be placed on the school walls, thereby obviating the difficulty with ground installation. Cost believed to be approximately £150 each, which can easily be met through PC funds.

**Action:** CS, FA

*P7 School Leavers' Prom*

Date is 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

3. **Financial Report (SRD)**

The current balance of PC funds is £1658.44. Financial statement (estimate) circulated to PC members in December.

4. **School Improvement Plan (FA)**

See attached HT School Improvement Plan update report.

5. **Safe Start Services (CS)**

Funding is available for setting up these pre-school clubs, which are aimed to allow parents to get to work in time for 9am. They require parent-managed committees to run the service – support and training is provided. In order to be successful, parent volunteers are required. It was agreed that fliers would be sent out to assess interest.

## 6. Cost of the School Day (CS)

CS questioned the timing of the school book fair (currently just before Christmas) – FA will review this and has been considering whether a different activity linked to World Book Day might be more appropriate.

CS again asked whether it would be possible for parents to voluntarily pay extra amounts into a school fund via Parent Pay, which the school could use at their discretion. FA will investigate this. **(action: FA)**

## 7. Head Teacher's Input (FA)

### *Fossoway Primary School App*

There have been around 150 downloads, the app is proving to be a great success. Where it is unclear whether the app has been downloaded, some families have been re-leafleted.

PC members felt it would be useful for school policies to also be linked via the app. Some of these which have yet to be updated e.g. antibullying policy may be linked as an interim measure but labelled "under review."

**Action:** FA to aim for 100% uptake of the app and to start the process of making school policies available.

### *School Enrolments*

There are 7 children enrolled into P1 for the 2019 – 2020 school year. Placement requests are not yet in, so there may be some changes to this later. Nursery currently has many children attending from other catchment areas. If Blairingone PS closes, there may be a further 5 children moving to FPS from there (but not specifically P1). This is balanced against 22 school leavers from P7 this year. FA confirmed that we will, nonetheless, retain our full complement of teachers.

### *Staffing*

Karen Davis (Early Years Practitioner) will be working with P1 on a temporary basis, as per School Improvement Plan update report.

Mrs Clemie and Mrs Sweeney have swapped classes on a Wednesday till the end of the summer term, largely aimed at specific support requirements in the P4/5 class.

There is a new Area Support Teacher (to replace Mrs McMartin) who will rotate around schools to release staff for school improvement activities.

At present there are no known changes to permanent staff for next session.

### *Pupil Equity Funding*

This funding aims to help to close the gap in attainment.

Numicon Maths resources will be purchased and staff training on this will be delivered at the April in-service training day.

Other initiatives which may be considered if there are remaining funds available include the Clicker resource (to support literacy) or the development of Resilience and Self-Regulation programmes.

FA asked the PC for our opinion on the possibility of the school funding Sleep workshops – these are aimed at both parents and children, with around 30 people per group. The PC did not feel that uptake would be high and speculated whether written information for parents might be more useful.

### *School Attendance*

School attendance figures are poor, largely related to family holidays and to sickness. PKC Policy requires a letter to be sent out if attendance falls below 96% (33 children currently fall into that category!). This figure of 96% is intended to include sickness due to illness (i.e. authorised leave.) FA intends to look at the patterns of absenteeism of children whose attendance falls below 90% and send out a letter if appropriate.

### *Car Park*

This continues to be a safety issue. There was some discussion around “parking buddies” (cardboard cutouts). LS suggested reinstating nursery passes. There was no final conclusion on how to address this.

### *Teachers Pay Settlement*

Negotiations are ongoing nationally regarding a pay settlement for teachers. FA will endeavour to keep parents informed of any potential strike action.

### *Internet Safety*

GIRFEC event: Keeping Your Child Safe event Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> March at Perth Cinema.

## **8. AOCB**

### *Format of HT Input*

It was suggested that attendance at / interest in the PC meetings might be enhanced if the HT Input was individually itemised on the agenda.

**Action: CS, FA** to look at this for next meeting.

### *Take Your Child to Work Day*

It was confirmed that this event would be taking place this year.

### *P7 Assessments*

Scottish National Standardised Assessments (which are carried out in P1, 4 and 7):

It was confirmed that the results of the P7 assessments will go to the High School along with other school assessments. Parents will be give some information about the assessment but the results are difficult to interpret so cannot be given to parents in isolation without further explanation.

### *Lifelong Learning Committee*

Applications to be a representative on this committee must be in by 1/2/19.

## **9. Change of date of next meeting**

Next meeting agreed **MARCH 20<sup>th</sup>**

Final meeting of the year will be on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

It was agreed that we would try to avoid December for future meetings.

It was unanimously agreed that we would plan to combine the AGM with the first PC meeting of the school year (generally September.)

