

Parent Council, Fossoway Primary School

Minutes of Meeting 17/02/2021

Present (Parent Council): Christina Smith (CS, Chair), Mrs. Allan (FA, Head Teacher), Mr Haines (TH), Sadie Watson (SW), Katherine Wallace (KW, Minutes), Barbara Cassels (BC), Jim Pritchard (JP), Natalie Harrower (NH), Lorna Hayes (LH)

Present (Parents joining for this meeting): Gillian Begg (GB)

Apologies: Adelaide Carlow (AC), Zoe Walthall (ZH)

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Approved as true record (proposed CS, seconded SM)

Matters Arising

- Community Council Link. There has been some discussion of the 20mph zone being extended in the Village, nothing else standing out as relevant to the School.
- Isla Kerr has decided to come off the PC.

2. Thank You

The Parent Council thanked FA and the staff for their hard work and support for remote learning. CS commented that different schools and authorities have been making very different provision. We have had regular contact and communication and thank for the quality of work provided. CS also acknowledged the amount of thought and work that is going into planning for the School, that can then change very quickly and have to be re-thought following Government Advice.

TH and FA thanked parents for their support during these times.

3. Financial Update

JP is persisting with the application for online banking – 11 forms filled in since August 2021 and the former treasurer still received an email instead of JP recently! Both CS & JP have been into branch to progress the application which was submitted on 9th February. Now we have a customer number so nearly there! JP re-iterated that we will pay for the school app as soon as online banking live – is it causing problems in the office? FA – office can cope and report on it, PTA are in the same position.

Balance in account – latest JP has seen was 24th July when the balance was £2422.

SW raised that RBS have been offering cash for businesses to move their business to other banks because they need to re-balance their customer base.

JP: look into whether RBS classify our account as 'business' and whether the cash incentive to move might apply.

4. Headteacher Update

See attached Head Teacher's Report and Staffing update.

Children's Learning. Discussion re whether children's learning is where the teachers would 'expect' if they were in school.

FA and TH reported high levels of engagement in remote learning with consistently high quality work being handed in from many learners. There is an acknowledgement that all family circumstances are different and will impact on learning during this period. Teachers will use a range of assessment tools and strategies and address any gaps as required.

Engagement in Home Schooling. FA described that there has been higher engagement in learning during this second remote learning phase – especially higher up the school. The virtual meetings for P4-7 have really helped, working

better for teachers and children. For P1-3 there has also been more interaction, eg. videos. There haven't been virtual class meetings for P1-3 because it took a few weeks for everyone to familiarise themselves with the new version of See Saw and it was felt that adding another platform (Teams) too soon would be challenging for some. Any future remote learning will include a live meetings element. Mrs Cummings has had some time to spend with small groups which has been very valuable, for example reading and maths groups, the House Captains and Head Boy/s Girls and their deputies.

Parent-Teacher Meetings. Discussion about timings – whether it would feel more helpful to have the meetings sooner, or once the children have been back in School a few weeks. KW raised that she felt parents may need to talk to teachers before children return to school in person to 'hand over' to teachers and discuss any concerns about their return. CS raised that it could be more helpful once the teachers have spent time with the children and had more time to see how their learning has been progressing and more time for any issues to emerge. SW raised that it would be helpful to have 'face to face' remote parent teacher sessions (building on the telephone calls last time). FA is waiting for revised PKC guidance and further discussion with teaching staff before format is agreed and communicated to parents.

Virtual 'meets' with parents. KW raised how helpful the High School 'meets' with parents have been, eg. over subject choices. The Head Teacher introduces, then different staff speak and parents can submit questions through chat. It's recorded so those who don't attend live can watch it later. Helps to feel connected to the School, almost like an assembly for parents! FA said she would look into this and consider it in future.

P7 transition to High School. Discussion re the challenges of planning transition when not sure what the 'rules' will be. Discussed possibility of involving the current S1s in supporting the P7s and talking to them about High School and transitioning during these unusual times. TH will think about how/ whether this could be taken forward.

Provision for children that are at home, eg. self isolating, once classes are back to School. Discussion about whether remote learning will be offered? (Following the meeting guidance was checked – please see our Remote Learning plan posted on school app 2nd December 2020)

5. Parental/ Pupil feedback on remote learning

FA reported that the feedback surveys had a very high response rate (65%) and overwhelmingly positive feedback. Over 90% of P4-7 parents felt that their child had benefitted from the daily check-in meetings.

The one thing parents felt would improve P1-3 remote learning was a live meeting (this will be implemented should we ever return to remote learning)

Other key results were:

- Over 91% said child had been engaged in their learning
- 96% felt the frequency and timing of learning tasks was appropriate
- 100% said the instructions for learning tasks were clear
- 93% said there is a good variety of learning tasks
- 95% felt the task were suited to their child's ability
- 97% agreed that support resources were suggested/provided as appropriate
- 95 % said feedback on learning is timely and informative. (with 65% strongly agreeing)

FA was particularly pleased at the response to the last question as she knows how hard staff have worked to provide feedback and support well within the initial time limits suggested for remote learning.

. BC noted appreciation of the parental survey and quick turn around of results. Response to feedback and actions taken were posted on the School App on 15th February.

Discussed other ways parents could give feedback on their child's learning and experiences during remote learning before the children return – there wasn't a high take up of the survey for this purpose in the summer. Discussed idea of teachers encouraging children to work with their parents on a 'learning journey' type write up of their experiences as part of their school. FA thanked for the feedback and discussion.

6. A.O.C.B.

Thank you. CS asked for thanks to be noted for Mrs. Whittaker increasing her hours to full time in P5/6 for the remainder of this academic year. SW asked for thanks to be noted for all the staff – really appreciated the effort that has gone into new ways of working remotely and doing things differently.

Volunteers. Discussion about when/ whether parents and/or people in the Community could support teachers, especially when gaps are identified with children's learning eg. reading with individual children/ groups of children. TH & FA both felt that the emphasis is on minimum movement of 'adults' in schools, for example part time staff are being allocated to one school rather than moving between schools – therefore volunteers coming in is a long way off.

7. Next Meeting Date

6.30pm: Wed 12th May

Please Note...

Parent Council Agendas and Minutes are circulated to parents by email from the School Office, and a copy is on the pinboard in the School Reception. All parents are welcome to attend Parent Council Meetings as observers, and we welcome parents coming forward if they are interested in joining the Parent Council. To contact the Parent Council directly you can speak to any member in person, or email fossowayparentcouncil1@gmail.com correspondence is then raised at Meetings.