

Parent Council, Fossoway Primary School

Minutes of AGM 11/09/2019

Present: Christina Smith (CS, Chair), Mrs. Allan (FA, Head Teacher), Mrs Brown (LB), Laura Sweet (LS), Sadie Watson (SW), Sheena Mitchell (SM), Susan Russell Darby (SRD), Jim Pritchard (JP), , Katherine Wallace (KW, Minutes), Adelaide Carlow (AC), Natalie Harrower (NH), Barbara Cassels (BC)

Apologies: Zoe Walthall (ZH), Lorna Haynes (LH), Isla Kerr (IK)

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting 15 05 19** – approved as true record (proposed JP, seconded CS)
2. **Matters Arising**
 - **Community Council Link.** Blairingone Primary School formerly closed now, children gone to different schools locally.
 - **Playground Noticeboard.** Up and looking great!
 - **Spreadsheet to track parental expenditure throughout the academic year.** Mrs. Wilson has set it up, agenda item each meeting.
 - **Parental communication policy.** Now on the school website.
3. **Role of the Parent Council.** See attached leaflet circulated by FA. Discussion included the value of hearing PC views with School's Challenge questions on forthcoming agendas, gathering parent views, working on the School Improvement Plan, sharing ideas, raising issues, supporting and challenging the school. Note of caution that if parents are experiencing issues we don't want them to wait until the next PC - ideally encourage parents to go to the school directly. Small issues in particular would be quickest dealt with directly with the school.

1. Election for Council Members/ Post Holders.

Membership elected:

- Christina Smith, Chair. Proposed BC, Seconded LS (P5)
- Sadie Watson, Vice Chair. Proposed CS, Seconded NH (P2, P6)
- Katherine Wallace, Secretary. Proposed AC, seconded BC (P5, P7)
- Susan Darby Russell, Finance. Proposed SM, seconded SW (P7)
- Jim Pritchard. Proposed AC, SRD (P4, P7)
- Adelaide Carlow. Proposed LS, seconded SW (P2, P5)
- Laura Smith. Proposed SW, seconded NH (P7)
- Sheena Mitchell. Proposed LS, seconded KW (P7)
- Natalie Harrower. Proposed CS, seconded AC (Nursery, P2, P5)
- Zoe Walthall. Proposed KW, seconded CS (P3)
- Barbara Cassels. Proposed KW, seconded SW (P6)
- Lorna Hayes. Elected in absence. Proposed LS, seconded CS (Nursery, P2)
- Isla Kerr. Elected in absence. Proposed LS, seconded CS (Rising Nursery, P2)

Delighted to have new members, and to have representation of the Nursery and all classes. Raised that LS, SM and SDR all have P7 children who will be leaving next year. Post holders have older children, need to think to the future. Would like to be working alongside potential new postholders this year if possible. BC & JP offered to take on the Finance role. Next meeting need to discuss succession planning!

CS raised that whilst she is happy to be Chair for another year, next year she would be looking to resign. Postholders thanked for their input. It would be good to promote a gender balance moving forward.

4. **Financial Report & Current Bank Balance.** See attached Financial Statement: 01/04/201 – 31/03/2019 and Opening Balance 01/ 04/ 2019 to Closing balance 27/ 08/ 2019. Balance on 27th August 2019: £1,407.36.

The Safe Start Funds which were temporarily held in the PC account have now been transferred to dedicated Safe Start account.

5. P1 Induction and P1-3 Meet the Teacher.

Following feedback from new parents, there was discussion around how to improve the communication with new P1 parents both during transition and once children start school. It was agreed that P1/2 parents should be invited to attend a focus group to discuss what went well with current induction process and what could be improved for next year.

Action: P1 teacher to meet with parents to answer any questions about homelearning

6. HT Input

See attached Standards and Quality Report 2018-19. The improvement priorities are:

- *To review and develop our Vision, Values and Aims and ensure these are embedded in our whole school ethos and relationships.* Discussion that the informal consultation with parents on this in Meet the Teacher had been well received with a high level of engagement from parents. Mr Haines is leading this improvement priority and has already consulted with staff. The Learning Council and all pupils will also be consulted before the October holidays. Once our new values have been agreed Mr Haines and Mrs Allan will then meet with focus groups to discuss our vision for Fossoy Primary.
- *To raise attainment by developing a more consistent approach to high expectations and effective feedback throughout the school.* PC supported this – raising that a few parents are feeling that current expectations are not high enough at the moment. Balanced with a positive and vibrant atmosphere in the School at the moment and at Meet the Teacher.

To further develop opportunities for staff to reflect on their own practice and collaborate to build their capacity to meet the needs of all learners. Discussion that this is a very positive priority. While most feedback about meeting children's needs has been very positive, some parents have expressed concern that their child has not received enough support. The school will be reviewing both universal and targeted support as part of this priority.

- Discussion about whether a Support Group/ Forum would be supportive – LB has worked in a School where this happened and seemed very positive. FA will consider Children with additional needs as a topic in a Parent Focus Group. There have been two extra in service days timetabled for staff, one to address workload issues and one to focus on inclusion. The needs of children with dyslexia has been raised and will be part of this alongside other support.

ELAV (Extended Learning and Achievement Visit) has taken place from Perth and Kinross Education and Children's Service. The Report will be issued after the October break and will include areas for focus for the School, as discussed with the Senior Management Team.

Action FA: Parent Focus Group this Academic Year re Children with Additional Needs

7. AOCB

Safe Start Services. PC raised a thank you and congratulations to Safe Start for a great provision – very positive addition to the school.

Nursery Quality Report. PC acknowledged the achievements in this Thank you. PC thanked RC for her contribution to the PC, RC is leaving as her youngest is now moving to High School.

Homelearning grids and Celebration event. Discussion that families feel differently about this, and some PC members expressed that the grid has been well received by their children and gives opportunity for supporting children's learning at home. SW raised a word of caution that parents don't feel the message is that home learning/ homework isn't important - LB re-iterated the importance and relevance of parents supporting children's learning at home – reading together/ board games/ shared experiences all benefit children's learning hugely. Discussion that for P1-3 children who are doing regular sounds/ spelling might

benefit from some teacher's feedback/ recognition on the work they are doing at home more often than once a term. LB and FA to consider this feedback with relevant staff. Re-visit at November PC meeting when a Celebration Event will have taken place and when everyone has more experience of the new homelearning policy.

Scout Camp. The School have had it confirmed that they can use for Scout Camp in the Community so they are now considering how to thread this into the curriculum/ children's learning.

Visible Learning Skills. FA raised that the staff have been focusing on Visible Learning Skills in training, and the thread is that feedback has a bigger impact on learning than virtually anything else. That children can reflect on their own learning and that there is a culture of feedback with both staff and parents is key.

Challenge Question. Postponed until next meeting as this Agenda taken full PC Next Year. Discussion that we would be keen to broaden membership of the PC next year, and if any parents would like to be postholders current members would be delighted to stand aside. Perhaps 'buddying' could be suggested for new potential members that are unsure. Leaflet did generate new membership this year, so will repeat.

Music Tuition. Discussion that this is run by Perth and Kinross Instrumental Music Service. The guitar teacher has been into eligible classes (P5 and up) to assess interest – and liaise with children/ families who will be offered a place. A woodwind teacher also comes in. Some teaching may be chargeable. Discussion raised that the system is not very transparent to children/ families or the school. For further information/ to contact the Music Service see <http://www.pkcmusic.com/>.

Action: LB instructions for parents on digital packages such as Sumdog

Date of next meetings:

6th November 2019

5th February 2020

13th May 2020

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.