

Parent Council, Fossoway Primary School

Minutes of Meeting 13/05/2020

Present: Christina Smith (CS, Chair), Mrs. Allan (FA, Head Teacher), Mr Haines (TH), Laura Sweet (LS), Sadie Watson (SW), Sheena Mitchell (SM), Adelaide Carlow (AC), Lorna Hayes (LH), Isla Kerr (IK), Jim Pritchard (JP), Natalie Harrower (NH), Katherine Wallace (KW, Minutes), Barbara Cassels (BC)

Apologies: Susan Russell Darby (SRD), Zoe Walthall (ZH)

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – approved as true record (proposed BC, seconded SM)

2. Home Learning

FA. A steep learning curve for teachers, parents and children. P1-4 are using See Saw, P4-7 are using Microsoft Teams. Most families are engaging and feedback has broadly suggested families are happy with the level of expectations. Huge thank you to staff for huge workloads – including all the technology issues and overcoming them. Thank you also to all the parents and families supporting the School and their children.

AC – Amazing and inspiring how kind and responsive the teachers have been. Some staff have children at home – can only imagine how challenging this must be – please pass on thanks.

Live teacher/ children conference call. TH trialled connecting a conference call with the P7s yesterday – the children could see TH but their own video cameras are turned off in Teams. Whether children can have cameras turned with restrictions is being reviewed at a National level. Children can upload a photo of themselves to be seen when they connect on a Teams call. TH – incredibly impressed what the children are doing – different children engage with different things, learning a lot as a teacher. LS – appreciated seeing Mr. Haines on video and chat yesterday. KW raised whether some form of ‘buddying’ could be possible between children – eg. Older child reading with younger child over facetime. FA said they can think about this, how to do so safely is an issue. KW raised how we can put information out for families to access – how as a school community we can be enabled to help and support each other.

Vote of thanks from Parent Council for the ‘video message’ from all the Teachers with the ball of paper being thrown from teacher to teacher, and for the hot chocolate with hand written card sent to all the children – it meant a lot to children and families.

Assemblies – KW raised whether pre-recorded assemblies could be introduced in some format? Could be short and involve different teachers/ children’s contributions. KW feels that it is important to have an established format for the school community to come together, in these times we may need or want to come together at times of change/ sadness and it would be helpful to have a familiar format already being used.

3. Hub Schools

Kinross Primary School is open as an ‘Activity Centre/ Hub’ for Key Worker’s children and vulnerable children. FA- Nursery staff are working in shifts – it is hard work but also useful experience for planning towards a return to school, eg. Hygiene/ social distancing.

4. School Improvement Plan

FA – good progress up until closure. Some items will carry forwards to next year, needing more information on National and Local plans before finalising priorities for next year’s plan. Health and Wellbeing likely to be focus next year across schools.

Vision/ Values/ Aims – are returning to this and seeing how it can be embedded into the current experiences.

Inclusion/ ASN – can’t be done in the same way during these restrictions. Focus of Inservice next Friday.

Feedback in Learning and Teaching – part of Inspiring Schools Programme – have decided to work on it collegiately once back.

5. Reporting

Teachers writing reports this term. Good feedback from last year's format, will be more flexibility this year with reduced commentary and reduced next steps. Attendance percentages will not be included as standard— parents can ask for these up to March if they would like them. The Reports will be emailed out across a week – thank you to Mrs. Wilson who will have the job of collating/ emailing them.

6. Transition Planning

Mrs. Clemmie/ Nursery Staff and Mr. Nicholson are communicating regarding children's experiences and learning for the transition to P1. For the transition to High School we are awaiting guidance and information. In both cases don't want to give information too early and be inaccurate. TH said he feels disappointed for the P7 as this is usually such an important time, will do as much as we can and some sort of celebration back at Primary School once restrictions are lifted. TH will try to be creative to give transition experiences – perhaps P7 take photos of camping in their gardens/ sleep in a different room in the house when they would have been at Dalguise! P7 have started work on a year book. Thinking about a Leavers assembly in some way. AC – offer to make a song with TH acknowledging each child? Primary Heads are meeting with Kinross High School re transition plans next week.

7. Nursery/ 1140 Hours

Planned Nursery Expansion next year – The Depute First Minister has stated that implementation of 1140 hours expansion may have to be delayed.

8. Classes/ Staff for 2020/21

Permanent Principle Teacher post being advertised at the moment. Virtual interviews before the end of May 2020. Depending on the outcome of this there may then be a vacancy for a class teacher as well. Mr. Nicholson will be in P1 next year – this has been decided so that transition planning can proceed. Don't know other allocations yet, and class composition is likely to be announced [once there is greater certainty about arrangements for return to school](#)— don't want to give out any information now that may change as plans for education emerge.

9. Recovery Planning for Return to School

FA – know no more than the National announcements. It will be a phased return – different models being looked at by PKC and National bodies. PKC are consulting and all schools are currently involved in scenario planning.

10. AOCB

School/ parent communication. BC asked how the school will communicate with parents regarding key decisions. FA said that they are using email and the app at the moment, longer messages are most effective by email but they would put an alert on the app that an email is coming out.

Financial update. See attached Treasurer's Report. SRD gave following feedback: Only change is interest. Bank not moved forward with mandate for online access yet, difficult times to chase them up but will do so and handover to JP before he takes over next Term.

Vote of thanks. CS gave a vote of thanks for everything the school are doing. Juggling working from home and interacting over technology – we are so fortunate and grateful for all the staff are doing.

Next Meeting. FA suggested that we could have an extra PC meeting before the end of Term (usually this is the last meeting of the academic year). PC grateful for the offer and meeting booked for 6.30pm on Wednesday 17th June. The PC is open to earlier/ further meetings if appropriate with unfolding events.

Next meeting this year:

Wednesday 17th June, 6.30pm, via teams

Meeting Dates for Next Year. CS to propose dates, see below:

- Wed 9th Sep
- Wed 11th Nov
- Wed 10th Feb
- 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.