

Parent Council AGM, Fossoway Primary School Minutes, 04 10 18

Present: Christina Smith (CS, Chair), Mrs. Allan (FA, Head Teacher), Mrs. Brown (LB), Katherine Wallace (KW), Susan Russell Darby (SRD), Rachel Charity (RC), Laura Sweet (LS), Jim Pritchard (JP), Sheena Mitchell (SM), Sadie Watson (SW), Adelaide Carlow (AC)

Visiting Councillor: Councillor Callum Purves (CP), Visiting Parents: Zoe Walthall (ZW), Julie Savin (JS)

Apologies: Laura Sweet (LS)

1. Minutes of previous meeting – true record

Two amendments to Item 5:

Remove 'JP supports the idea having looked at options with FA'.

Add a record of the decision by the Parent Council to approve publicity materials being circulated from Religious Organisations with a consistent approach across Religions.

Action: KW amend minutes for circulation with draft and final minutes of this AGM.

2. Matters arising

Community Council Link. No one has offered to be a Parent Representative on the Community Council, so CS has informed Trudy Duffy-Wigman that she will attend when she can. Councillor Willie Robertson has sent CS a Presentation re the Road Changes. Councillor Callum Purves (CP) attended this meeting (see item on Music Tuition below).

Action: CS email Presentation re Road Changes to PC members.

Playground Noticeboard. CS has researched some ideas which cost from approximately £200 up. Brief discussion that whilst it would be valuable to have the noticeboard near the new seating area in the playground, perhaps the existing board could be moved/ painted.

Action: FA raise possible upgrades to the notice board with the PTA for consideration at the Autumn tidy up.

Action: CS contact ManShed in Kinross re whether upgrading/ renewing the board is something they could help with.

Correspondance. The PC email address has received one email re Learning through Play in P1-3 from JS who is in attendance at the meeting – to be discussed in Item 6.

Music Tuition. AC composed a letter re the PC's support for music tuition in schools and concerns re the increased cost to parent which CS sent to all Kinrossshire Councillors. CP gave some information/ background to the proposals – that the Education budget has been cut by 20%, protected services can't be cut and therefore non-protected services such as music are affected. The increased costs represent a 73% cut in subsidy over 3 years. The Council will be monitoring whether take up of music tuition is negatively affected by the increased costs and whether it affects families who may need financial assistance taking up tuition. There is potentially financial support for families – KW raised that she feels music tuition is the least transparent provision in Schools (eg. What age groups are entitled/ how to apply/ what is available), and that finding the information on financial assistance is difficult. CP confirmed that Schools can refer families for financial assistance but that he will look into this point.

3. Election for Council Members/ Post Holders.

Membership elected:

- Christina Smith, Chair. Proposed KW, Seconded SW (P4, P7)
- Sadie Watson, Vice Chair. Proposed CS, Seconded KW (P1, P5, P7)
- Katherine Wallace, Secretary. Proposed CS, seconded SRD (P4, P6, P7)
- Susan Darby Russell, Finance. Proposed CS, seconded KW (P6)
- Jim Pritchard. Proposed CS, RC (P3, P6)
- Adelaide Carlow. Proposed SM, seconded KW (P1, P4)
- Laura Smith. Proposed AC, seconded SW (P6)
- Sheena Mitchell. Proposed CS, seconded KW (P6)

- Rachael Charity. Proposed CS, seconded JP (P7)
- Natalie Harrower. Proposed SW, seconded CS (Nursery, P1, P4)
- Zoe Walthall. Proposed KW, seconded CS (P2)
- Julie Savin. Proposed KW, seconded CS (P3)

Comment [FA1]: Harrower

Delighted to have new members, and to have representation of the Nursery and all classes.
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

SRD thanked for being Treasurer and producing the Report.
The balance of PC funds, as at 31.03.18: £1892.96
The Annual Financial Statement is attached with these minutes.

5. Highlights from meeting of PC chairs in Perth

PC/PTA funds. Increasing issues with embezzlement across Schools. PC has annual financial statements and cheques require two signatures.

Action: Balance of funds an agenda item and minuted at every PC meeting.

Voluntary contributions via Parent Pay. This is being raised and looked into by different Schools and PKC aware,.

Action: FA research whether voluntary contributions via Parent Pay are possible/ how it could work.

Cost of School Day. Some schools are now publishing this on their website on a class by class basis. Discussion re value as a tool for reflecting on what is being asked of families, eg. Trips/ sports as well as/ instead of publishing actual figures.

Action: CS agenda item at a meeting during this academic year.

HMI Parent Lay Teams for School Inspections. HMI are currently recruiting for parents interested in joining their inspection teams – who have no previous experience of working in schools/ nurseries. This is not specific to Fossoway – it could be schools anywhere. For further information contact the Education department at PKC or the PC using fossowayparentcouncil1@gmail.com

6. Head Teacher Input

See attached Head Teachers Report.

Blairingone Primary School Consultation.

Action: All: if you can attend Education Scotland parent consultation on Tuesday 23 October let FA know.

Reporting to Parents.

As part of the School Improvement Plan to work on reporting across the school, feedback will be sought from parents on their views of current tools and processes used. A draft Parent Survey was shared which will be distributed to the school parents and carers at the Parent's Evening in November

Action: PC: feedback to FA ASAP re the Parent Survey for Parents Evenings.

Action: FA email parents copy of Survey ahead of Parents Evening.

Learning through Play, P1-3

For information on this initiative, see Playscotland.org.

Discussions around the importance of a continuing dialogue with parents and encouraging parents with any concerns to contact Mrs Allan directly – by email or in person.

Discussions around the importance of monitoring the results of the Learning through Play approach and how it is impacting on pupil attainment, skills and health and wellbeing. This included discussion around the process of evaluating and reporting on the pilot. Some Parent Council members raised the possibility of concrete success criteria, and whether parents can be directly included in the evaluation with Fossoway staff. FA will explore evaluation further with the Educational Psychology team, other network schools and support team.

Action: FA buy up to 20 copies of Education Scotland's Learning through Play booklet for staff to share with parents

Action: CS: School Improvement Plan (including Learning from Play), Agenda item at each PC Meeting this year,

Action: FA work with staff, educational psychologists, network schools and supporters on the evaluation process.

and how parents can be included/ fed back to.

Action: FA: Session specifically for P3 parents before Parent's Evenings next term to further discuss Learning through Play. Consideration will be given to having another session for P1&2 parents after Christmas.

Website options. LB and the office have been looking into two different providers and are awaiting feedback on the costs of a website and potentially a school app.

7. P7 Cluster Prom

Parents from Portmoak have organised this in recent years but are not able to this year and moving forward. They propose handing over to a Committee with representative/s from each School's PC/PTA.

Action: FA to give information to PTA at their AGM tomorrow.

Action: CS to circulate information to PC members.

8. AOCB

None.

Dates for forthcoming meetings:

Wednesday 12th December 2018, Wednesday 6th February 2019, Wednesday 15th May 2019

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 at the AGM. 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.