

# Parent Council Meeting (followed AGM)

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020

## MINUTES

### 1. Welcome and apologies

**Present:** Fiona Esson, Jane Veitch (P3,4,5 teacher), Angela Pond (Head Teacher), Jan Watt, Jen Dunbar, Niall Ferguson, Graham Strachan, Rob Brookes, Laura Ferguson, Councilor Robbie Withey.

**Apologies:** Gemma Wood, Jolene McKay

### 2. Approval of minutes – Meeting 30<sup>th</sup> October – no amendments so approved.

### 3. Matters arising from previous minutes

**Running Club** – Kerry (Active Schools) has been unable to progress due to a lack of volunteers (the problem appears to be getting a time to work).

### 4. Headteacher's Report – see attached, plus additional points as follows:

**PEF Funding** (currently pays for PSA) finishes at the end of this session, do not know if there will be something to replace this, but hopeful as the feedback is that it is making a real difference across Scotland.

**Seesaw** – Feedback from parents is positive regarding type of posts and frequency. Concern expressed over whether teachers were having to spend their weekends/evenings uploading posts – apparently this is just pressing a button and not an issue.

**Wish List** – see below

### 5. Treasurers' Report

**Approval of Accounts** - complete.

**Charitable Status** – application submitted (amended constitution was issued to the parent forum in December – no objections. This will be adopted if we are successful).

Full Report provided – Current Balance £2783.10 (includes Christmas Fair, Bags to School and Council payment)

**Wish List** – Cheque issued to school for £669 to cover Phonic books (catch-up series) as previously agreed. Plus £200 term cheque. Only one term cheque remaining this session. Walkie-talkies already purchased by school.

Parent Council also funded footballs as requested by Ross Nixon.

In addition, Parent Council funded Christmas presents: each class received a Playmobil set and each child received a book. Thank you to Jan Watt for organising (including wrapping!) all these presents.

Additional items of beanbags removed from list – P6/7 are using sofa from library plus other donated items in their flexible seating area.

Wish List funding now complete.

**Maths No Problem** – school have obtained quote for books and subscriptions for next session:

Books: £726.78 (£6.79 each)

Online subscription: £525

Total: £1,251.75

Lengthy discussion regarding options but eventually voted to continue with the scheme and purchase from current parent council funds since there are enough funds available at present (in future may need to ask parents for contribution if lacking in funds). Angela Pond and Jane Veitch have done a lot of work to ensure the programme is meeting the needs of the children and also covering all points of the curriculum and it was felt that we should continue until we have the outcome of this year's assessments. Feedback from parents and children appears to be positive. Parent Council have also funded the additional resources needed.

School to investigate whether we could purchase along with other local schools who also use the programme (to get a better discount).

## 6. Action Points

**Homework Policy:** see HT report – Angela Pond also advises that parents will be consulted shortly.

**Induction Review:** see HT report – Jayne Irvine will be taking this forward, including visiting other schools.

**Garden:** Fiona Esson to meet with Lisa Coles and Angela Pond to look at progressing use of this area. Agreed that there would be no composting attempted, as this was entirely unsuccessful last time and needs too much attention.

**Grant applications / Competitions:** Evening Express successful (£100), ALDI didn't quite collect enough stickers, Lottery unsuccessful, Thrift Shop still to do. Textile Fund application template received but cannot apply until April.

Fiona Esson asked what the school priority would be for any future grant application – Teachers will consider. Rotary suggested – perhaps for sensory equipment. Children would like new bins – Robbie Withey suggested Waste Services/ Zero Waste Scotland - Jane Veitch to follow up.

**Parent Survey:** Parent Council propose to do a quick parent survey to gather opinion and compare to the one from last year. Also include questions on Parent Council. Ideally would like to have a focus group to look at outcomes from this and the school survey.

**Pupil Council:** Not yet in a position to invite to Parent Council meeting but Fiona Esson to attend Pupil Council.

## 7. Events and Fundraising

**Events Review:** Christmas fair raised over £600, Bags to School £104. Discussed possibility of hiring a character to attract people to the Christmas Fair, also need for date to be organised earlier, idea of a Friday afternoon/evening also seems popular.

**Upcoming events:** Disco 21<sup>st</sup> Feb (discussed possibility of inviting another school in future), Bags to School (no date yet), Scholastic Book Fair to be in school 26<sup>th</sup> April -6<sup>th</sup> May (volunteers required to support at parents evenings), Summer Fair and Football Tournament to be combined (Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June), Ross Nixon happy to organise the football, with Jan Watt and Laura Ferguson leading the refreshments, stalls, etc.

**Muddy Run (May 17<sup>th</sup>)** – Graham Strachan stepping down after this year's event and only going to organise the event this year with support. Also suggested splitting income between school and After School Club. Rob Brookes also organising a running event (Hilly Half Marathon - in its fourth year) with funds donated to school/ASC (not possible to combine the two events). After some discussion, Rob kindly agreed to work with Graham this year, in order to take on the Muddy Run in future. Niall Ferguson and Jen Dunbar happy to offer support for this where possible. Muddy Run will continue to be a Monymusk School event, suggestion that Hilly Half Marathon could support ASC.

## 8. News, correspondence, invitations

- NPFS event re ASL - info emailed out and on Facebook page
- Parent Council chair meeting to take place in March this year – awaiting dates

Useful websites for parents:

<https://www.npfs.org.uk>

<https://www.connect.scot>

<https://education.gov.scot> – scroll down to “subscribe to our newsletters” – various ones to choose from.

Facebook pages:

- National Parent Forum Scotland
- Connect (formerly Scottish Parent Teacher Council)
- Education Scotland