

Parent Council Meeting (held online)

Wednesday 10th June 2020

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Fiona Esson, Jan and David Watt, Laura Ferguson, Niall and Lauren Ferguson, Gemma Wood, Sarah Donaldson, Joanne Reid, Aileen Strachan, Nicky Coetzer, Kirsty Thomasson

Teachers – Angela Pond (HT), Jane Veitch, Christina Farquhar, Jayne Irvine, Deborah Lamb

Apologies: Louise Gibbon

2. Approval of minutes – Meeting 5th February – no amendments so approved.

3. Matters arising from previous minutes - None – all covered elsewhere

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

Vision, Values and Aims – following consultation with all stakeholders this is complete and shared on screen.

Reporting Leaflet and Calendar, Reporting Form, Abbreviated Improvement Plan - also shared on screen.

PEF Funding – PSA agreed until December, funding in place until the summer.

Recovery Model – being prepared, requires approval from Authority, school will share as soon as possible (before end of term). Still a lot of questions and so many things to be considered (social distancing, hygiene, staggered breaks, etc.). School being cleaned this week and then staff will be able to access the building.

Every school will be different as working with varying circumstances but aiming for some consistency across the cluster.

Authority working with Education Scotland to get video facilities approved. Google classroom video function now enabled but unlikely to use video with children until after the summer.

Expectation is that all children (not P1 and P6 as in England) will return to school on 12th August (11th will be in-set) on a “blended learning” model – with some time in school and work to complete at home which will complement the school work. Agreement should be reached soon on 4 days lost from holiday, cannot be taken off this year.

Questions:

When After School Club might return? Mrs Pond cannot answer at present, but Jan Watt (works in third sector) advised it looked like it might be August.

Timings of children attending and siblings? Mrs Pond aware of challenges for families and worries around managing work and school and will try to keep siblings together.

Support for children with anxieties around returning to school? Mrs Pond asked parents to get in touch with any anxieties from parents / children and they will work to ensure the children are supported.

Health and Wellbeing will be at the core of the learning next session and Outdoor Learning will be used to try to reduce the spread of the virus.

Scottish Government Guidance on Schools re-opening available to all (see end of minutes for link)

5. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report not available at present – Jan awaiting statement next week. Minimal movement since last meeting, with Muddy Run refunds processed and income from Disco. Once statement received Jan will wind up accounts for this session.

Charitable Status – application on hold at present.

Hungry Haggis Community Cafe – worked really well on the website and shows that we can use it for future events. Mrs Pond thanked Jan and David Watt for their help with this, it was a hugely successful event.

Funding Request – Jane Veitch explained that since there will be a focus on Outdoor Learning, she will be doing a Forest Schools course, to gain Level 3 status (mostly online at present, completed evenings/ weekends). This will enable the children to do more activities as part of their Outdoor Learning. The school can fund this but would like Tracey Cheyne (PSA) to complete as well as she can work across all the classes. Cost is just under £800 and there are no other funding requests anticipated. Parents voted to approve this request as the school will be limited without. Mrs Pond thanked the parents for their support.

This may mean that the Parent Council funds will need replenishing in order to fund the Maths No Problem books which we committed to fund at the last meeting but agreed that we would look at virtual events in order to achieve this. Jan also mentioned possibility of Thrift Shop / Textile Fund support as well as resilience funds.

6. Action Points

Homework Policy: complete – to be reviewed in a year

Induction Review: complete – will require a review/update next year

Fiona thanked all the teachers for their hard work completing all the policies and other documents which had been committed to at the start of the year. She also thanked them for their hard work during lockdown, providing a wide range of work and support to the children.

Garden: Fiona Esson met with Lisa Coles and Angela Pond before lockdown and agreed a plan for a sensory area and an Eco Group. Largely on hold at present but hopeful to get back on track after summer. Monymusk Estate had agreed to fill in the pond (which unfortunately had to be removed for health and safety reasons) – Mrs Pond will chase.

Grant applications – covered under funding request. Bins – Robbie Withey (councilor) had passed on his contact and they can provide bins. However, Mrs Pond advises that school had a fire safety risk assessment prior to our Covid closure, and those bins were deemed a fire risk and she was told not to pursue. Any bins purchased must be secured to the concrete playground.

Parent Survey: Following our last meeting Fiona had prepared a survey to follow up on the one in May 2019 with a plan to issue in May. However, since none of the matters were considered urgent this is postponed until we return in August.

7. Events and Fundraising

Events Review: Disco was a huge success, children had a great time, thank you to everyone for their support, hope to make an annual event.

Upcoming events: all postponed/cancelled at present. Laura Ferguson looking into options for virtual events (Drive-in Cinema being done by some schools; not sure this would work in Monymusk). If anyone has any ideas/would like to help organise please contact the parent council (email: parentcouncil@monymuskschool.co.uk).

8. News, correspondence, invitations

Fiona attended online Parent Council chair meeting on Monday 8th - all covered by Mrs Pond in her report. Future use of online meetings – several parents expressed appreciation for the online set up, enabling them to attend. Parent Council will continue to make use of technology in future.

Useful websites/information for parents:

Scottish Government Guidance on Schools re-opening

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-re-opening-schools-guide/>

Parent friendly Q&A on Government Guidance

<https://www.parentclub.scot/articles/reopening-schools-faqs>

<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