

Parent Council Meeting (held online on Teams)

Monday 17th May 2021

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Fiona Esson (chairperson), Jan Watt (Treasurer), Laura Ferguson (Fundraising), Joanne Reid, Gemma Wood, Jen Dunbar, Lauren Ferguson, Angela Pond (Head Teacher), Jane Veitch (P1,2 Teacher)

Apologies: None

2. Approval of minutes – Meeting 11th February 2021 – no comments and so approved

3. Matters arising from previous minutes - MarvellousMe progress/update? – see HT report and below

4. Treasurer's Update

£2,500 grant received from onefamily for shed / shelter purchase. No other change so available funds still c£1500 (with £150 required towards shed/shelter purchase – different style chosen after last meeting)

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

MarvellousMe – noted that the authority is still working on agreements to enable schools to use Seesaw (which would be the preferred option)

6. Action Points

P1 Induction and P7 Transition – as per HT report. Mrs Pond to send revised P1 induction to Parent Council committee for review.

Homework Policy – was due to be implemented last year and reviewed now. Mrs Pond will do another quick parent survey to check attitudes. Carried forward to discuss at next meeting.

Maths No Problem – Had hoped to have some assessment results to be able to see impact of MNP since it is a large investment each year, but this is not realistic given the disruption and varying learning at home experiences. School advises cost of books £1130 for the coming year. Voted to purchase these (usually get a discount so figure should be less) in order to continue working with this.

Post meeting addition: Actual figure is £1251.73 which is the discounted cost of the books plus the teaching aids at £175 x 3. Committee have agreed this is still manageable – cheque to be issued to school asap.

Grant applications / Competitions

Onefamily grant – funds received, shed / shelter on hold at Deeside Log Cabins. Mark Paterson somewhat elusive at present!

TESCO community grant application (for storage and various outdoor items to replace those lost in the fire) – still waiting for decision. Advised at end of April that it was ready to go to the vote and we would hear when it progressed to the next stage. Fingers crossed.

Textile fund – waiting for outcome of TESCO application before proceeding.

Thrift Shop – £500 received towards Big Cat reading books series to plug gaps. We had become aware that teachers were struggling to keep larger reading groups together as there were insufficient books in each title

due to books going astray over the years, resulting in confusion and wasted time. The Thrift Shop committee very kindly agreed to help and donated £500 (price of books varies from £4 to £7). Fiona has already thanked Lorna Pole and Angela Sibbald and asked for thanks to be passed on to the committee on behalf of the Parent Council. Mrs Pond to arrange thank you from the children.

7. Events and Fundraising

Bags2School – large pile of bags in Fiona’s garage for collection Tuesday 18th. Thank you to everyone who donated.

Online - Had hoped to organise an online event but feeling that no real enthusiasm and everyone struggling. Restrictions prevented spring/Easter event.

End of term event - Discussed possibility of doing something at the end of term. Plan to revive raffle which had not been drawn with restrictions still in place. School happy to do cake deliveries again. Also discussed how we could do school photos since these will not be taken again this year but struggling to find a solution with restrictions and GDPR.

Post meeting addition: Carrie McIntosh to take photos of individuals / siblings at the park after school on Friday 18th June. Online raffle and cake sales for delivery by children or collection from park. Refreshments and toilets available - donations please. Fiona to speak to school and communication to be issued to parents with all the details and requests for help.

8. News, correspondence, invitations

Fiona has joined Parent Council meetings with other chairs. Free school meals will be available to all primary school children from Easter 2022.

Does anyone have access to topsoil??? The children are planting potatoes. Fiona to put on Facebook.

Thanks to those who attended. Apologies for technical issues.

Useful websites/information for parents:

Education Scotland

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/covid-19-education-recovery/>

Scottish Government Guidance for Schools

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-reducing-the-risks-in-schools/>

Parent Club guide to Coronavirus restrictions

<https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/coronavirus/new-restrictions?age=0>

<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