

Meeting of Papdale Parent Council

Monday 17 June 2019 at 5.30pm

In Attendance: Wendy Bowen, Kevin Balfour, Tanya Blowfield (Chair), Craig Spence, Lorna Robertson, Dawn Stanger, Katie Croy, Audrey Waterson, Tracy Linklater, Rachal Thomson, Paula Craigie, Nicola Reid (minutes).

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Joanne Tait, Jos Tulloch, Ruth Drever, Shayron Mooney.

2. Parent Council Member Photos

Kevin took photos of the Parent Council members present at the meeting who hadn't yet had them done, we now have photos of 13 of our members. Please can remaining members drop into the school to get their photo taken as soon as possible, or e-mail a suitable photo in to Kevin.

3. Minute of Previous Meeting (13 May 2019) & Matters Arising

The minute was agreed as an accurate record, proposed by Tanya Blowfield and seconded by Lorna Robertson.

Matters Arising

The Head Teacher & Parent Council Chair meeting took place on 13 June, unfortunately there were no Parent Council members available to attend. Wendy and Kevin attended for some of the session and there was an interesting group discussion on homework. This is a possible topic for a future Friday Focus meeting at Papdale.

Staffing - there are 3 teachers returning from maternity or career breaks, we have 2 vacancies at present.

Staffing model - we have had our teacher numbers reduced to 17 so the current composite P5/6 class will be divided into the new, straight P6 and 7 classes, this is primarily being done on reading ability. Reports will be going home with pupils on Wednesday and there will also be notification of new classes/teachers in with the reports.

4. Head Teacher Report

Attainment

There have been drops across the board in all of our attainment statistics, Wendy is concerned about this and plans to focus on literacy next year. Ideas for improvement include using funding from the Pupil Equity Fund to provide relevant teacher training to support phonics based approaches as well as "Fresh Start" for older pupils (P6-7) who may be struggling with reading.

School Behaviour Strategy

We would like to develop as a school our behaviour strategy, building on the work of Paul Dix. This is based on a very clear framework of consistency and good relationships and focuses on the effects of our actions as well as celebrating all children's achievements.

Continuous Reporting - Learning Journals

Wendy would like to introduce an online platform which teachers can update and link to parents. This would possibly replace the paper learning jotters and would be much more interactive as it would include photos from class learning. It links clearly to the Scottish curriculum. There will be a parent app out later in the year but not ready for the start of term. Access will be through a website. The Pupil Equity Fund can be used to purchase ipads/tablets for all teachers.

Nursery/P1 Changes

P1 will move to what is currently being used as the Nursery and the current P1 area will become the new Nursery area. The play area directly outside these joint areas will become a joint play area to help promote learning through play. This will however, involve moving the current play park area, with the exception of the standing stones which can't be moved so will be fenced off separately. Plans for this are still to be developed and will be brought forward to a future meeting.

Anti-Bullying Policy

The meeting held regarding this, was well attended by parents and was a very positive and productive meeting. Teresa Scott came up with some great ideas for an anti-bullying superhero and posters. The anti-bullying policy will go live in the next week or so then work will begin jointly with Teresa and the school kids to take this forward.

Pupil Equity Fund

All funds must be spent by June 2020. Priorities for Papdale for this funding are:-
Topping up Support for Learning Staff, IT equipment, Nursery/P1 changes

New Lunch/Break System

This is working well and there has been lots of positive feedback. It is making the dinner hall and the playground less busy/noisy.

5. Disco Thanks and Future Dates

Thank you to everyone who helped with the School disco, we raised an amazing £894! It was agreed to wait until the AGM to agree disco dates for next year. It was felt that the first term might be too soon to hold one as the P1's are very tired and still settling in.

6. Tesco Bags of Change

This is closed for new applications at present. Nicola has joined the mailing list to be informed when it re-opens. A possible project for next year might be the changes to the playground. We will carry this forward to next year.

7. The Role of the Parent Council

It was felt that the introduction of the Friday Forums might cover the proposal to involve more parents in discussions. We will need a separate meeting set up if we are to review our constitution but it was felt it would be sensible to leave this until after the AGM as we will have changes to membership then.

8. Future Meeting Dates

It was agreed to hold the AGM on Tuesday 3 September 2019 at 5.30pm. This will be held in the staff room. Nicola to ensure meeting is advertised 2 weeks in advance.

9. School Uniform Update

Kevin has spoken with Trek and Travel, they understand and are happy with the proposal to expand the range of Papdale school wear available and for us to get quotes from Logo Orkney as well. Kevin will contact both Trek & Travel and Logo Orkney to ask what items they propose to offer and what the prices would be, also whether they would be willing to pay any commission to the school on sales of Papdale merchandise.

There was discussion around the current school tops and the fact that there are 3 shades of blue available. It was felt that it would look smarter if there was just one shade of blue and it would also make it easier for our suppliers if they only had to order in one colour. Trek & Travel have confirmed that the pale blue is the least popular and it was agreed around the table that we could remove this colour from options available going forwards,

Kevin will therefore ask the office to create a Facebook poll so that people can vote between the navy or royal blue option.

10. AOCB

P4

A few parents have asked why there has been no class trip announced for the P4's this year. Wendy confirmed that Mr Hill and Mr Brown are visiting Fern Valley this evening to see if it would be suitable for their class trip. This will be announced once plans can be confirmed and will take place on 4 July.

It has also been raised that the P4 Viking Feast hasn't happened this year. Wendy will speak to the kitchen staff and see if we can fit this in before the end of term, possibly on 1 July.

P7 Farewell Concert

This year's concert takes place on 3 July. Some parents have asked if it would be possible to announce dates for this at an earlier stage in the year so that parents can book time off work to attend. Wendy looked at next year's diary and has confirmed that next year's P7 Farewell will take place on 29 June 2020.

Shopping Night

Lorna & Katie have kindly agreed to organise this again and have booked the infant hall for Wednesday 6 November 2019. They are thinking to have a home bakes sale and a "pot of gold" on the night to raise some extra funds.

New P1 Parents Info Evening

This is taking place on Wednesday night at 7pm, can any available parent council members please help to meet with parents and to serve tea and coffee. Lorna has confirmed she can help. There will also be a coffee morning from 0900-1000 on the first day of term (20 August) for new P1 parents and carers. It was suggested that Parent Council could attend this to meet new parents and to promote the AGM.

Date of next meeting: AGM - Tuesday 3 September 2019 at 5.30pm.