

Annual General Meeting of
Papdale Parent Council
Monday 28 September 2020 at 7pm
Via VScene

In Attendance:

Tanya Blowfield (Chair), Joanne Tait, Ruth Drever, Rachal Thomson, Ashleigh Gillespie, Lesley Bews, Mairaine Clark, Inez Moss, Elaine Bain, Olivia Macpherson, Dawn Williams, Lisa Gibson, Donna Yule, Lorna Robertson Katie Croy, Ruth Lea, Craig Spence, Rona Marcus, Dawn Stanger, Wendy Bowen, Nicola Reid (minutes).

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Kevin Balfour, Jos Tulloch, Paula Craigie, Karen Allan.

2. Minute of Previous AGM (3 September 2019)

The minute was agreed as an accurate record. Approved by Tanya Blowfield, seconded by Ruth Drever.

3. Matters Arising

School Uniforms

The school put on a fashion show after the new school uniform range was launched by Trek & Travel and Logo Orkney, nothing has been taken forward so far regarding the idea to offer class points to the classes with the most pupils wearing school uniform, this was an idea put forward to try and encourage more children to wear school uniform and could perhaps be taken forward to a future meeting for consideration.

Funding

Over the last school year, the Parent Council funded new iPads at a cost of £6,000 and contributed £2,000 to the cost of the Accelerated Learning Programme.

4. Chairperson's Report

Tanya delivered the following report:-

It has been an honour to be the Chair for the Papdale Parent Council for the last two years. This last year from September 2019 to the present September 2020 started off in the usual fundraising fashion with lots of money raised and then money spent. Then Covid arrived and the school was placed in lock down and the virtual school arrived.

We once again have been lucky to have such a strong and dedicated committee and would like to thank the whole team for their valued contribution and help over the past year. Without every one of you we could not function. I appreciate all the help and support every one gives to this committee and I can honestly say it has been a pleasure to be the Chair.

I also want to especially thank Kevin and Wendy who have been very supportive and encouraging to our parent council. Wendy has now been in post for over a year and a half and it feels like she has been with us forever!

The parent council started off with the fundraising for the parents evening stalls last September and raised over £800 selling raffle tickets and baking. The Christmas shopping night was another great

success with nearly £2000 being raised on a single night. Huge thanks must go to Lorna and Katie for again making the evening such a success, and to everyone who helped out and especially the janitors for all their help and organising.

We were able to buy IPADS at a cost of just over £6000, for the whole school and the nursery so photos and learning can be captured and added to the Learning Journals App which has proved even more important through the virtual school.

We had a disco in January with Lee from Party Fun Time which was a success as always. We made nearly £900 at the disco. A new night was the music coffee night in February which was a lovely night with all the instruments and a great way for the kids to showcase their musical talents. It would be super if this can be a regular fixture in the calendar.

So despite lock down in March we had managed to do several fundraising events and spend money on the IPADS and accelerated reading programme and supporting those on the trip to Hoy in P6.

We were consulted with about the virtual school, parent hand book, the school standards and quality report. And as a parent council provided important feedback to the school about lock down and the wider parent forums views of the virtual school. It continues to be a very different year to what we had all expected pre covid and who knows in what direction it will take us.

It is an exciting time as always to be involved with the school and the parent council. We have had a willing and engaged committee all of whom I would like to thank. In particular I would like to thank Nicola as secretary for keeping me right and being so efficient. Jo as vice chair who I am always delegating to and who does so many important rotas for events. Ruth as Treasurer who is always on top of the finances. Everyone has been very helpful to me as Chair for the last two years. It is with sadness that I step down from my role as chair and from the committee. I have really enjoyed my time as a general member, secretary and now chair but after my seven year stint I feel it is my obligation to pass the role on to the next committee. I wish the parent council every success and luck to continue raising funds for the extra equipment and school trips and keeping the relationship and dialogue open between school staff, parents and the wider parent forum.

5. Treasurer's Report

Opening Balance		£5,699.58
Money In		
Parents' Evenings	£824.02	
Christmas Shopping Night	£1,846.77	
Disco	£882.88	
Music Night	£353.00	
OIC Grant	£290.64	
	£4,197.31	
		£9,896.89
Money Out		
School iPads	£5,866.19	
Fundraising Supplies	£210.22	

Hoy Trip Contribution	£130.00	
OIC Lottery Fee	£20.00	
Nursery iPads	£638.56	
Accelerated Reading Programme	£2,000.00	
Orcadian AGM Advert	£20.16	
	£8,885.13	
Closing Balance		<u>£1,011.76</u>

6. Head Teacher's Report

Wendy delivered the following report:-

I would like to thank the Parent Council for their support this past year. We have really appreciated the funding of the additional ipads which has ensured that each class has their own dedicated ipad. The tremendous work done to host a raffle and baking stall, coffee evening and the school discos have all been so important to our fundraising efforts and really make a difference to the life of the school.

Thank you to the committee for their ongoing support, particularly with attending online meetings during lockdown to allow me to have a flavour of what the parent voice was thinking.

Staffing

This past year we have benefited from additional Principal Teacher time which was part funded through PEF. This additional Principal Teacher – Literacy P4 Mrs Becky Ewing ensured that we had begun to raise attainment at P4-P5 with the purchase of a new reading scheme Project X and employing new methods of teaching reading. Mrs Becky Ewing did a tremendous job and we were very sorry to have to lose this post.

Session 2020-2021 we have made the Principal Teacher Post of Additional Support for learning permanent. Mrs Miranda Johnston was the successful candidate. Having created this role in session 2019- 2020 we can ensure that pupils are able to access learning and to ensure that individualised learning plans are used creatively to meet each child's needs.

We welcomed 2 new teachers this session, Mr Neil McIntosh in P4 and Mrs Paige Archibald in P1. Mr McIntosh is on a phased return to work so his class is covered by Miss Sarah Work. Mrs Archibald is currently on maternity leave and is due to return to work in Jan 2021. Mrs Astrid Heaton has been successfully appointed as the class teacher.

Mr Jo Hill returned from his head teacher secondment.

Mrs Gina McMahon who currently teaches in P1 has resigned from her post and will leave at the October holidays. We wish her well as she focuses her energies on her other post of Occupational Therapy. We have yet to appoint a replacement member of staff.

Mrs Irene Drever is currently not at work, and we expect that she will retire shortly having had a diagnosis of MND. Her post is being filled by Mrs Julie Muir.

We have 2 new probationer teachers Mrs Stacy Johnson and Mrs Rachel Suttie

Mr Dave Griffith our music instructor is currently unwell and not at work. We send him the very best of wishes.

Mrs Shona Garson left her part time clerical post at the beginning of September, we are currently going through the recruitment process for a new part time clerical assistant.

Mrs Leslie Spence has left our school to take up a position as a Student Teacher. We wish her well and thank her for her 22 years service to the school. Her post of Early Years Practitioner is going to be made into 2 different kinds of posts. We hope to create a Child/ Youth Support Worker who will be able to work both in and outside of the school environment, however this change to our staffing is currently working its way through the processes of Human Resources.

We have been recruiting to our Support for Learning Team as Mrs Nora Rendall has given up some of her hours. We hope to welcome a new team member after the October holidays.

Covid-19

When the school closed on the 19th March I have never had such a heavy heart as I walked around the building. The building appeared sorrowful. However, I have to praise the efforts of our full Papdale team each and every one of the team has worked tirelessly to ensure that the pupils of Papdale were supported in their learning.

Our school became the East Mainland Hub with staff working over their Easter break to ensure that it was kept open. The school continued to function as the hub until mid-June when we moved to the Papdale Halls of residence.

My sincere thanks must go to the janitorial team, we have now come to the conclusion that they have moved EVERY piece of furniture that is in the building at LEAST once in the past few months. The amount of moving of furniture and resources has been truly phenomenal.

Our administration team also had a heavy weight of responsibility for co-ordinating the paperwork and behind the scenes hub. Thank you!

Our Virtual School was set up overnight, on the Tuesday we had a very quick hour and a half training and by the end of the week each of the classes had a team and the children had had a chance to access Glow. A staggering achievement in a school of this size.

As time went by, we developed the Virtual School model and appreciated the help of the parent council to craft and refine our ask to parents at this time.

We have had a good uptake of use on the Virtual School; however, some families were sent home paper packs to support them as access to technology was difficult.

Return to school

Returning to school has not been straight forward. Prior to the staff and pupils return a complete risk assessment was required. Staff and parent handbooks were issued to ensure that everyone had a consistent message. We continue to keep pupils within smaller bubbles. Two classes play together outside and we are limiting the amount of movement in the school. The unexpected affect of this is that the school has a much calmer environment. Children come into school directly in the morning and are collected at night. We appreciate the fact that parents are now parking their cars at KGS. This needs to continue as we must not have congested areas around our school.

Parents Night

We have phoned parents this year instead of the normal face to face event.

Nursery Building Works

The nursery did not have a place to function as our P1 class was moved into their space. We agreed to give up the use of the Infant Hall to host the nursery. This has required significant work from the

Nursery team to make this work. Due to changing restrictions they have changed the layout of the hall 3 times. Moveable sinks had to be purchased and flower boxes and fencing in the garden at the front was needed to be created.

We hope that Nursery will move into their new building at the October holidays, but we are planning a contingency plan should this not occur.

School Lunches

We are keen to continue to minimise the number of pupils who are gathered. To this end lunches in the classrooms has ensured that this is the case but it can be difficult for the Auxiliary team to manage. We have been given 3 additional staff members but we could not get staff from the supply list to fill the posts. Packed lunches made by the canteen are delivered to the classes. We have P1 eating their lunch in the Gym hall.

After October we are keen to ensure that hot meals can be offered once more. We will have to have a staggered lunch system, ensure that areas of the hall are cleaned between classes and have considered having less options for eating so that we can get the numbers of children through the hall.

Should the nursery not be out of the hall we are exploring how hot meals can be delivered to the classroom.

We extend our thanks to Ellie and our team who have worked so hard throughout this time.

P7 Cheerio

We were sad to not have to say a proper good bye to our P7 pupils ,the P7 team and Mrs Dufort led a super online assembly and were able to recognise the achievements of the P7s. They also enjoyed a virtual Lagganlia trip.

Lagganlia Trip

Most monies for the trip have been refunded bar the initial deposit of £30. We will refund this money during the October holidays.

Expressive Arts

The Expressive Arts team did a super job of running the Peedie Orkney Olympic games topic and their activities were the most participated in across the Virtual School. Well done!

PE at present is outside the building. This is due to change after October but I wonder how this will work given the changing picture of Covid.

P1s at present are not having Expressive Arts teachers but staff should still be delivering PE and Art to the pupils.

Music guidance has just been published. Schools were not allowed to sing, and sharing of instruments been classes meant that equipment needed to be cleaned.

Instrumental Tuition – strings tuition has resumed, woodwind and brass are not allowed to play but have been focusing on theory skills and I know that tutors have been emailing videos to the children.

Goss from the Boss

This video from me each week started as a way to connect with the whole school family whilst in lockdown, I thought that we would not need to continue with this, but it appears that folks are

finding this a useful way of getting information. We have had up to 1600 and 1700 views per posting. We have been mindful that not everyone is on Facebook and upload the videos to the Website. We have also sent letters home. Thank you for your kind remarks.

All in all everyone has had to adapt to a new way of living, this is bringing many changes and we are adapting as much as we can. We appreciate your ongoing support with this matter.

Standards and Quality Report

We published our Standards and Quality report, this gave a report of the year up to March and a flavour of our Virtual School. You can access this directly from the website or request a copy from the school office.

Attainment

Some of the headline news was the increase in attainment levels which we were on track to achieve prior to lockdown. We looked as if we were in a good place to meet the local authority targets.

School Improvement Plan

Our improvement plan this year is very much about how to support the return to school, health and well being a key component of the plan. We are also looking at our levels of attainment in literacy and numeracy and looking at how we can support pupils with lost learning.

P1 continues to be a key development with moving in the P1 space. However, we have not been able to use the space as we would have liked given the fact that we are now in 3 very separate classes.

Seesaw

We have taken the decision to move from the Learning Journal Platform from Seesaw, though this platform is 2x as expensive we expect it to engage more parents more regularly. We also felt that ease of access to the platform was needed. However there have come to our attention issues with GDPR. In this case we are awaiting word from the Council as to what is the best way to proceed, I have also kept Learning Journals live so we could move to this platform again.

7. Committee Members

The following Parent Council Members will be standing down tonight, we thank them for their contribution over the years:-

Tanya Blowfield
Ruth Drever
Nicola Reid
Paula Craigie
Craig Spence
Shayron Mooney
Karen Allan
Tracy Linklater

The following new members have been elected:-

Lesley Howard
Dawn Williams
Olivia Macpherson
Elaine Bain
Inez Moss
Lisa Gibson

Marraine Clark
Ashleigh Gillespie

8. Election of Office Bearers

Vice Chair, Joanne Tait, proposed by Tanya Blowfield, seconded by Rachal Thomson
Treasurer, Rachal Thomson, proposed by Tanya Blowfield, seconded by Joanne Tait
Secretary, Ruth Lea, proposed by Lorna Robertson, seconded by Katie Croy.
The role of Chair remains vacant at present and will hopefully be appointed to at the next full meeting of the Parent Council.

9. AOCB

Future Meeting Dates

It was agreed that a meeting would be held, via VScene, on Monday 5 October at 7pm, to discuss possible fundraising ideas. Future meeting dates can be agreed at that meeting.

Photos

Photos are required of all Parent Council members so that they can be displayed on the notice board in the school reception. Please can everyone e-mail a photo to Kevin Balfour.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.