

**FRIENDS OF GLAITNESS SCHOOL**  
**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 7pm**  
**(In school/Virtual Meeting via VScene)**

**Present:**

Vscene

Steven Johnston (Chair)

Michelle Kennedy

Katy Firth (P1/2 HL Rep)

Kerry Bickmore (P1/2W Rep)

Karen Rorie (P1/2HL & P6/7T Rep)

Barbara Brown (P3 Rep)

Jess Smith (P3 Rep)

Alice Peace (P4 Rep)

Ola Slater (P4AS Rep)

In-school

Ingrid Rendall (Head Teacher)

Shaun Tulloch (ELC Manager)

Helen Killeen (Business Manager)

Donna Reid (Parent + Minute Taker)

**Apologies**

Emma McConnachie

**1. Opening of the Meeting**

Steven welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies of Absence**

As above.

**3. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> April.**

Minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

**4. Action Log Update**

No outstanding actions.

**5. Head Teachers Update**

Ingrid began sharing information and slides about how money is distributed across Scottish Attainment Challenge 2. She provided an overview of where the Scottish Government are going with education in general and information about PEF funding for Glaitness. The Scottish Government's agenda for Education is for Scotland to be the best place in the world to learn. Several authorities have had money targeted at closing the poverty gap. The Scottish Attainment Challenge has now been refreshed to build on existing policy. How it works... Attainment Scotland Fund (ASF) £1b 2022-2026 is split into 3 pots – money to Local Authorities Strategic Equity Funding (SEF), Pupil Equity Funding (PEF), Care Experienced Children and Young People. Those young people historically have the biggest attainment gap.

In Orkney the SEF is £100,000 in Year 1, increasing in Years 2 to 4. The funding is being used for another Attainment Adviser post, based in OIC. Somebody who would come around the schools to support with attainment. If you are an authority who has had lots of money ploughed in previously, SEF reduces each year. Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) is most relevant for Glaitness. The PEF funding goes to 97% of schools. Some schools get a small allocation because it is based on free school meals. Children now get free school meals up to Primary 5, so it is difficult to know exactly who to focus on. Glaitness gets £30,000 this year for PEF funding (from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023). Dialogue with staff, pupils, parents on expenditure. Head Teacher is accountable to the authority for how PEF funding is used. School will be coming back to FoGS and the wider parent community on this. There has been expenditure this year on iPads, staffing and resources which is detailed in the school's Standards and Quality Report (SQR). Ingrid wants more discussion in person with parents about what they would like funding directed towards.

Staffing and spaces – 2 teaching members of staff going on maternity leave at the summer Karin Spence and Shannon Tait. These vacancies have not yet been advertised. Corey Symonds returns from maternity leave. Alice Flett has been doing that cover this session. Corey is coming back two days a week after the holidays and will be working with Donna Reid in her class. Emma Moodie who was Donna's stage partner previously is picking up 3 days in Firth and will not be returning to Glaitness. This leaves a full-time gap in the mainstream classes. On Monday, Ingrid will be participating in an interview process. By the end of the day, they should know who has been appointed to the vacant teacher post. Glaitness will also have a probationer teacher after the holidays. Ingrid has had contact with Laura Martin, probationer, from Edinburgh. She is hoping to be up before the end of June so that she can meet pupils and staff. Ingrid appreciates it is an anxious time for parents, but also for pupils, particularly those in support classes. Whilst we may not know who all the teachers are, we do have support staff teams at each level for consistency. Nearly all the classes next year will be composite classes. 28 Pupils are coming into Primary 1 after summer. The existing Primary 1 is a class and a bit, as is Primary 2. They can only create 8 classes for mainstream and 5 for support classes. They have looked carefully at lots of models. There are several advantages to composite classes, you cannot have more than 25 pupils in a class so it evens numbers out. It also helps bairns to create new friendships and relationships. Gary Ward has resigned from his clerical post to look after his children full-time. Karen Thomson who had been filling the vacancy left to go to Stromness Academy. Helen has been filling in and now Carol McGee is coming in 3 days per week until the end of term. The clerical post is currently being advertised. Steven wishes Gary all the best with his job as full-time dad to the girls.

Karen asked if Ingrid could confirm the make-up of classes if not the teachers. Ingrid confirmed the composition for next session will be P1, P1/2, P2/3, P3, P4/5, P4/5, P6/7, P6/7. They have thought through 8 different ways they could do this. They also had to look at where classes are and can be located. Ingrid wanted to point out that other parents are not yet aware of this, and asked if FoGS members could keep this to themselves until they have the whole picture to share with all parents. Further information is hoped to be available by Monday (13<sup>th</sup> June). Karen asked if the children would be split according to age as has happened in the past. This year there were 3 P1/2 classes which were split according to nursery peer groups. They have looked at ages and stages but are also trying to keep groups of children together too. The staff tonight have been looking at how this might work and there is some tweaking to do yet.

Kerri asked if there would be shared teaching across composite classes like the P1/2's have done this year. Ingrid confirmed yes, they would be hoping to do that. One thing that is trickier next session is the plan of the school, depending on the timeframe sitting around that, we start as we are and then classes must move. The P1/2s would move into the existing nursery by October. We hope to have a

music and art classroom and establish a new library. Next session, there will be a focus on play development and active learning – extended versions of Plan Do Review. The big schools are going to be working on sharing learning and practice next session.

Steven asked whether we are confident we know which bairns are entitled to FSM and therefore entitled to PEF. Since all pupils to P5 get free school meals, it is getting more difficult to pinpoint which children to target. It is possible that clothing allowance might be an increasing feature of decision-making. PEF funding has been used in a variety of ways, but there is more accountability, requiring measurement, e.g. to measure increased attainment in reading. This year they identified funding for staffing, but the staff were not available. Some PEF was used to have Fiona Scott in for full-time days to do targeted interventions with P1/2s. There are a whole lot of new maths resources which haven't been used long enough yet to measure impact. It is not an exact science. PEF can also be used for staff training on programmes such as Sounds Right. Steven pointed out that no-one likes to be labelled as in poverty, but that there are more families who are going to be struggling. If FoGS can help with promoting this, we will. Ingrid agreed it would be helpful for more folk to be involved, particularly now we can have folk in schools. Barbara added that she works for Citizens Advice and would certainly be willing to work with the school. In October, we could have groups in to help with advice and information raising awareness at events e.g. parents evening.

## **6. Early Learning and Childcare Update**

ELC are busy working on staffing and spaces with a huge move coming up soon. Family learning continues to be an improvement focus. There have been families in the building, helping in the Polycrub and Play on Pedals sessions. Some folk might have seen the vandalism incident in the polycrub. This has happened a few times now in that area and the school are working with Police Scotland. The good news is that the plants haven't been badly affected. The plants are growing well and the children can see the difference each time they go. ELC have been working with Ingrid and the team on transition. They have concentrated on putting key groups into the same classes in P1. The children are coming back together after being in two distinct bubbles. The children have today started visiting different areas of the school e.g. the back playground, dinner hall, and meeting some of the P1 staff team. Shaun said they would also be supporting the transition at the other end of the holidays with some staff available to support the P1s as they settle in. Shaun is pleased that the staff team will be fairly stable with some additions as they have eligible two-year olds again. There may be more children coming into the two-year old eligibility bracket. They are also taking in 7-8 pupils who cannot be accommodated in Papdale Nursery.

Inside work is nearly complete in the extension, there is pinboard up on the walls, the kitchen is in. There are a huge number of staff on site. They should have access from the last day of term. Shaun is hoping to be able to move things as soon as children are out for the summer holidays. They are working hard on the outside too – grass, planting. Orkney Builders have been great to work with. Phase 1 – bit we moved into after Christmas. Phase 2 – the new extension at the front of the school. Phase 3 – remodelling of the existing nursery will commence over the summer holidays. They are trying to balance making the spaces suitable and making them ready quickly so that school can maximise the spaces. Ingrid, Sharon and Helen have been looking at the spaces and have requested some refurbishment.

## **7. Treasurer's Update**

Steven confirmed the online banking balance is £4,230.87. We are getting a steady stream from the lottery. Some parents are kindly donating their winnings back. Expenditure around the Picky Centre: we did not quite have a full year of extra-curricular sports so costs might increase next session.

#### **8. Fundraising**

We will organise a quiz next session. Any other ideas: Halloween Disco is popular with the children and worth arranging.

#### **9. Extra-curricular Sports update**

Steven received update via email from Emma. She has sourced sponsors for new netball strips. They entered 2 teams who won 4 out of 8 games and P5s joined in with this. Steven reminded the group we need to be mindful of coaches who will move on and have a handover to someone else. Football Gilmour Shield being held on 19<sup>th</sup> June. This is open more widely to pupils than the League. Action - to approach each of the clubs to see if there are any changes they might want. A trial period for football before team selection and an additional cup team have been proposed. Fraser Anderson has suggested recently that the football kit needs updating too. Steven suggested they might be able to go down sponsorship route like the netball have to get new strips.

Helen said dates for 2022/23 have been submitted to Picky but they haven't confirmed yet. She has also had contact from Rebecca Reid and she is happy to continue badminton with KGS helper next session.

#### **10. AOCB**

Outdoor Education – P6 joint funding 50/50% between school and FoGS agreed for this year only. This is due to cost of living increases and a lack of time for parents to prepare and save up to pay for their bairns. Members agreed that FoGS should pay half. Need to have discussions re: 2022/23 session, particularly relating to 'cost of the school day' element of outdoor education. Kate Hookham has been in doing work with Early Years staff. ELC pupils have experienced lots of learning and evidence of learning coming from the Forest Schools work. There are more children doing writing in one day of doing the Forest Schools work than they would have done in a whole week. Helen has recently filled in an outdoor education survey from the Scottish Government which she will share with parents. Katy spoke about how she thinks outdoor learning is so important to the bairns learning and health and wellbeing. She would be keen to share her views as a soon to be P1 parent via the survey too. Ingrid will follow up on the promised letter from Education re: clarifying Outdoor Ed rules and reinstate the Parent Council/Head Teacher meetings.

#### **11. Correspondence**

None received.

#### **12. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September including tour of new ELC and P1/2 facilities 7-7.30, then in person and online AGM from 7.30pm.

#### **13. Meeting closed 8:40pm.**

<b>Action Log 2020-2021</b>			
<b>No:</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Date Complete</b>
1	IR/BB	Arrange Citizens Advice presence at parents evening to help parents with finances. Also ensure uptake of free school means so that the school gets the right level of Pupil Equity Fund money.	
<b>Recently Completed Actions</b>			