

Parent Council AGM

2nd September 2021

18:30-19:45

Attended: Rhanna Whiteford, Gemma Fraser, Ann Marie Baines, Erin Wilmott, Lizanne Nelson, Gemma Dunnett, Joanna Christie, Abbie Crew, Carolyn Robinson, Derek Louden, Jake Williams.

Apologies: Heather Rigby.

Order of Meeting:

Welcome/Introductions

Role of the parent council:

We did not cover this as there were no new attendees to the meeting however for new parents who may be reading the notes, the role of the parent council is for us to support the school in supporting our children, this can be through fundraising or raising awareness of the schools/pupils/parents needs, representing the views of the parents, trying to encourage links between teaching staff and parents/pupils and the wider community, Supporting the school and pupils with inspections, we also play a role in appointing staff.

The parent council plays such a vital role when it comes to fundraising for the school which benefits our children. Examples of this are: discos, excursions, new playground equipment, the new library and gifts for primary seven leavers to name a few.

Update from Derek Louden regarding School bus routes:

Following discussions with Derek Martin it was made known that those children who were opting to go to Tain Royal Academy would have to pay the bus fare to school as this is no longer considered the catchment area for Milton. If you attend Milton Primary School your secondary catchment area is/will be Invergordon Academy due to an update on boundaries for catchment areas regarding schooling. This came as a shock to those present at the meeting as nobody had been made aware of this update. Milton has always had the option of which academy children may attend. If your child should wish to attend TRA then you now need to put in a placement request for this although free transportation to TRA would not be included. We were also informed that from January 2022 anyone under 22 will be able to ride free on the buses although this doesn't help with those current pupils who have just left that are attending TRA. Gemma Dunnett asked Derek Louden if he could forward on this information so she could look in to it a bit more. Derek said he would continue to liaise to see if there is anything that can be done.

We also discussed how the current plans were coming along for the 3-18 campus in Tain. Derek informed us that planning is still going through just now but they were hoping to start the build in 2022 for opening to pupils August 2024.

Update from Jake Williams.

The holiday hub was a great success for the summer and has had really good feedback from children/parents/community. As this has been a success they will now be able to use this framework to roll out in other areas. He is hopeful that the Scottish Government will see how valuable and successful the hub has been and that they will grant funding for this to continue. Hoping that school based clubs will be able to return soon. Currently running a four week block of sport taster sessions at Invergordon Leisure Centre. Jake to forward information for us to send out to parents including rugby, tennis coaching, racket skills.

Queries from parents.

1- Why are the children not getting changed for PE? Is there a designated area for this?

- Last year due to Covid 19 the children weren't changing for PE however following our return this year this has changed. So far though P1/2/3 have not changed due to their PE sessions being carried outdoors which is no different than when they are playing at their breaks, P3/4/5/6/7 a large proportion of the children have not been taking in their PE kits but can change if they do want to/bring a PE kit in.
- When PE sessions are indoors the primary1/2/3's will change in their classroom, P3/4/5/6/7 will change in the changing room/cloakroom/toilets.

2- Will the children be able to have discos this term?

At the moment there will be no discos until the guidelines change as it is still recommended that large gatherings indoors should be avoided. This guidelines apply for the first six week return of this school term.

3-Where are we on upgrading school playground? Has new equipment been ordered? Do we still need to fundraise for this?

A parent council member who has now left the school was looking in to sourcing some mud kitchens from the Mens Shed but we do not know how far she got with this so we *will chase this up*. The original fundraising went towards the painted games on the ground including: hopscotch and snakes and ladders. The grant went towards play equipment including goal posts and sporting equipment (goals, swing ball, rackets, footballs etc) which all the children have access to at playtime. It was suggested that staff could take time to encourage the children to use the painted games on the ground to remind children how to play the games. *Derek Loudon* also added that the school may be entitled to grants and would *forward the necessary information to Gemma Dunnett*. Jake suggested seeing if we could work in partnership with Rural Skills at Balnagown to see if they could help us with upgrading our outdoor areas, *Jake to forward information to Gemma Dunnett*.

4-Parents have noticed an increase in dog fouling on school grounds, could we put a polite reminder that there should not be dogs on school grounds and to pick up after dogs?

It was discussed that the children could make posters for putting up around the school grounds and local community encouraging people to pick up after their dog. It was also suggested that the children's craft club could make a poo bag feeder for putting around the community as an incentive to pick up their dog poo made out of recycled plastic bottles which would then have a supply of poo bags in it. Derek also suggested if it was a big issue we could maybe put a plea in the paper regarding the issue we were facing, how the children were getting involved with trying to encourage people to pick up after themselves and why it is so important to pick up after your dog including health implications for children touching dog foul.

5- Maintenance: fence directly in front of carpark is broken and unsafe and the passage way also has sharp bits of wire poking out. Could we get on to the council about fixing this?

The passage way has been fixed of the sharp wire as of Tuesday 31/08/2021 so this area should no longer be an issue. As for the broken fence this will need to be looked in to as we are not sure if the boundary brings it under a Highland Council or a school maintenance issue.

6- Can we remind parents about congregating in large groups outside the gates and to wear masks?

Staff will continue to remind and encourage parents to wear masks and maintain social distancing. This has also been shared on Seesaw and the latest newsletter along with the attachment of the

guidelines currently in place.

Return to school Summary Gemma Dunnett.

1. Children have settled back brilliantly, such a lovely feel about the school, children have been doing so well and trying really hard. We love getting to a Friday when we can share the good news and achievements at assembly.
2. SHANARRI (safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible, included) is still a big focus and highlighted and discussed daily with children.
3. Emotion works is also going to be our focus this year for our health and well-being for emotional learning and well-being, It breaks things down into components/cogs so the children can identify and work out/problem solve their feelings. We will be looking at a number of texts/videos/films to learn about it and how we can then use this ourselves. The children have made a great start with this and are really enjoying it.
4. Staffing- support staying the same until October at least- usual annual review in October as opposed to June (passed). Mrs Bridgeford and Miss Mackenzie both temporary.
Nursery- currently have 4 EYPS for the whole of this session (Emma, Mrs June, Mrs Fletcher, Mrs Macdonald) due to an increase in the nursery role. There will be an upcoming job opportunity for a support worker for 10 hours per week in the nursery, two hours a day for lunch cover of EYP staff to start January. If this is something that would interest you to let Gemma Dunnett know.
5. Homework has now been issued although staff are trying to be mindful of previous surveys/requests/suggestions of parents and pupils.
6. After school clubs have resumed and also some lunch clubs.
Clubs include Monday- P1/2, Tuesday- P5/6/7, Wednesday- P3/4 there are still some spaces available for the clubs. If your child would like to attend please let a member of staff know. There is also a drawing club on Tuesday lunch times and a dance club on Wednesday lunch times due to pupil suggestions.
7. House systems is to be reintroduced but slightly different than before. There will be termly events to earn points and each week at assembly points will be given out for children winning SHANARRI awards, super star awards or hall of fame awards.
8. There will be a polling station on Friday (03.09.2021) for children to vote for who they want to be their house captains and to elect a pupil council committee.
9. Covid is very much still around and on the increase in our local area. We want to protect our children, staff and families so ask that families follow the current Covid guidelines. Advice has been shared on Seesaw and the blog from the Health Protection team on Wednesday the information was as follows:
 - If you are in contact with a positive case of Covid 19 you must isolate immediately and book a PCR test.
 - If the test is negative and you have had both vaccines (two weeks after second dose) you can resume as normal but ensure you look out for symptoms,
 - If the test is negative and you have had one or No vaccine then you must isolate for ten days. We would ask that you are vigilant in looking for symptoms in your family too. If you are in doubt about the guidelines please contact the school and discuss this with Gemma Dunnett.

Fundraising/Current balance

Current parent council balance £507.10. As state in parent query question three Derek suggested that there may be some grants that the school could apply for including Covid recovery grant and discretionary grant. Derek would forward on relative information to Gemma Dunnett.

Parent Council Committee Roles Changes.

As there were not enough members present this could not be changed so a vote will take place on the next parent council meeting. To encourage as many people as possible to next meeting. New and old faces welcome.

Any other Business?

N/A.

Date for next parent council meeting.

November 4th 2021 @ 7:30pm via Google meet.

Gemma Dunnett to send out Google Meet invite.

Actions:

- Derek Loudon to forward on information regarding Bus routes/boundaries, funding forms, liase with Gemma regarding support for additional support staff.
- Jake Williams to forward on information regarding after schools clubs, sports taster sessions, liasing with rural skills, sports leaders for p5/6/7.
- Gemma Dunnett:
 - look into school boundaries regarding secondary school
 - School or Highland Council boundary for fixing fence
 - Send out google meet link for 4.11.21
 - Forward links on for Rhanna Whiteford to put on platforms regarding afterschool clubs updated guidelines, Job post for nursery.
- Rhanna Whiteford:
 - Minute the meeting
 - Chase men's shed regarding mud kitchens and benches for playground
 - Put out plea for outdoor loose parts
 - Put out updated guidelines
 - Plea for afterschool clubs more children
 - Remind parents to follow school BLOG www.miltonprimary.com and to interact with seesaw with their children
 - Drum up support for new members for parent council
 - Pop post up regarding Nursery upcoming position.

Kind Request to please help keep our children, staff and families safe by following the guidelines including social distancing and wearing your face mask.