

Meethill School Council Meeting

Wednesday 15th November 2017 Meethill School 6.30pm

1. Welcome

Mr Black and Giselle welcomed everyone to the meeting

Present

G. Leddingham, L. Cruickshank, H. Cairns, S. Mathieson, M. Morgan, C. Keddie,
F. Moir, B. Whyte, Mr. J. Black, Mrs. L. Noble,

Apologies

Cllr Calder, Cllr Smith, Cllr Fakley, J. Gay, L. Donnelly, F. Slocombe, L. Brown, LA. Dow, L. McKay

2. Minutes from previous meeting

Nothing to add or changes to be made

3. Matters Arising

a) Playground Update

Awaiting quotes for works to be completed regarding resurfacing. Some parts of playground are worse than others i.e. bottom of nursery step and raised drain covers. The Authority property officers are aware of and recognise the issues. Mr Black reported that Cllr Fakley had contacted the Director of Education, Maria Walker seeking updates. It is hoped that the appropriate remedial works will be included in the financial planning for next session.

Mr Black agreed to seek an update on the installation of signs requesting that people do not cross through the playground during the pupil day.

b) Nursery Day

The altered Nursery morning opening time trial will continue until the Christmas break. It was agreed that parental views be sought via Survey Monkey.

c) Notice Board

The notice board has been damaged and is no longer in situ at the entrance doors. It is unclear as to how this happened as was a weekend of particularly bad weather. When noticed the front had become completely detached from the back so backing board now removed also.

Mr Black put forward for discussion whether the wish was to replace the board and members in agreement that notice board was valuable to share information. There was discussion around how to

fund the new board and whether to approach Fundraising Committee for money or for the School Council to fund. It was also discussed whether purchasing a more expensive durable board may be more financially economical.

It was noted that the Council has yet to receive their annual funding allocation from the Authority. Mr Black agreed to pursue this. Current balance: £94.11.

4. Business

Head teacher report

a) Staffing Update

Newsletter been sent home to all pupils.

Miss Brown has left to pursue her career in Edinburgh. Her replacement, Miss Thores has been recruited and will start Monday 13/11/17, which will allow for a hand-over week, prior to Miss Brown's departure.

Mr Black indicated that discussions around his remaining at Meethill and Mr James taking up the HT post at Fetterangus are well advanced. Dialogue with relevant Councilors and with the Parent Councils of both schools requires to be undertaken by Officers before any moves are confirmed.

The School is currently staffed at an appropriate level.

b) Morning/End of day supervision

- Morning

Pupil access to the school building at the start of the day was discussed following parental complaints on one morning of particularly bad weather. Mr Black acknowledged the concerns and indicated that staff had been reminded of the necessity to ensure pupils can access as promptly as possible, particularly in light of the introduction of the 'line-up' bell. It was agreed that allowing pupils access to the gym hall in advance of the morning bells was impractical from a space and pupil supervision point of view.

Mr Black also discussed the new arrangements for primary 1s entering via the front door, along with primary 7s. Indications are that this has received positive feedback and will consequently continue.

- End of school day

Following an end of day incident on school grounds earlier in the session, Mr Black asked for Council's opinion on the School's responsibility for pupil supervision once pupils have been dismissed from the building at 3pm.

Council was in agreement that incidents which occur after 3pm are not the School's responsibility and also recognized some teachers already go above their duty by ensuring children are collected at end of day. Mr Black reiterated that whilst an incident would not be ignored if witnessed by staff and if any children came back into school after 3pm the situation would be address but that staff will not stand and watch until the playground is completely empty at the end of the pupil day. He will issue a letter home to this affect.

c) Social Media

There was discussion around the Meethill School Parent Council Facebook page. It was agreed that the page serves as a very useful method of communicating quickly and widely to parents, however some thought should be given to discussing with Mr Black / Mrs Noble before items outwith those agreed at meetings of either of the two parent groups are posted. Currently, items can be posted by Fundraising Committee Chair and Secretary and School Administrator, Linda McGee. Mr Black suggested that G Leddingham and B Whyte have access to post items in their roles as Chair and Clerk of School Council.

Mr Black also expressed concerns around the unfortunate impression of the school that is sometimes created by inappropriate or ill-informed postings on social media. He indicated that if any parent/carer wishes to express concerns or dissatisfaction at the school's handling of any situation they are welcome to contact him to discuss further or to follow the Authority's complaints procedures.

Scottish National School Assessments

Mr Black shared with Council information relating to the national assessments being introduced for pupils in primaries 1, 4 and 7 this session. These will ultimately replace the standardised assessments currently undertaken by pupils in primaries 1,3 5 and 7 although pupils in primaries 3 and 5 will take part in the existing assessments for the last time this session.

The computerised assessments in literacy and numeracy will reflect the content and levels of the Curriculum for Excellence and are designed to support the professional judgment of teachers in terms of pupil progress and attainment.

More detailed information will be issued to families prior to the children taking part.

d) School Aims/Values

Mrs Noble invited Council to consider the existing school aims and values, along with exemplars from other schools. School staff undertook a similar exercise during the Inset days and pupils will be consulted in the near future. The aim is to construct a shared set of aims and values with which all members of the school community are comfortable and are committed to fulfilling. Such over arching statements will influence all school policies including curricular experiences and behavior policy.

Future agenda items

None raised to be sent prior to meeting in timescale set

5. Date and time next meeting

Wednesday 31st January 2018 at 6pm in Meethill School