

## Meethill School Council Meeting

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 Meethill School 6.00 pm

### 1. Present and Apologies

S. Mathieson, M. Morgan, L. Cruickshank, C. Keddie, F. Moir, J. Gay, L. Donnelly, F. Slocombe, L. Brown, LA Dow, L. MacKay, Cllr Fakley, Cllr Smith, Mrs. Noble, Mr. Black

Apologies: G. Ledingham, H. Cairns, B. Whyte

Cllr. Calder

### 2. Minute of previous meeting (15<sup>th</sup> November)- Approved

### 3. Matters Arising: No items not covered in Business agenda

Mr Black reported the decision by G. Ledingham to stand down as Chair. After discussion, S Mathieson agreed to take on the position. It was agreed that no vice-chair be identified for the time-being.

### 4. Business / HT report

#### a. Staffing update

Mr Black reported that, the vacancy created by Mrs Burnell's departure remains unfilled in spite of three successive periods of advert. Mrs Barbour is also currently off so from a staffing point of view, the school is going through a rather challenging period again.

Interviews for the temporary replacement for Mrs Noble will be held on the morning of Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February.

Mr Black also reported the resignation of Mrs Jackie Gray from the Nursery. Mrs Gray's contribution will be missed. The recruitment for a replacement for Mrs Gray is underway.

#### b. Governance Review :

Mr Black made reference to the current Scottish Government consultation relating to proposed changes around the Governance of schools. There was some discussion around the impact that the proposals would have on schools and on Local Authorities.

#### c. School aims and values

Although work is progressing in terms of this item, Mr Black felt it too early to take this back to Council at this stage. This will appear as an item on the next agenda.

#### d. Playground Update

It was confirmed that in spite of reassurances around signage to discourage playground access, this matter does not appear to have made any progress. Mr Black confirmed that a contractor had undertaken a costing exercise in the autumn but there has been no indication whether or not any proposed repairs will be in the budget for the forth-coming financial year.

Parents and Cllrs continued to express their concerns and further attempts to prompt action are being considered.

Mr Black also referred to a request made to Property by Cllr Calder regarding the condition of the School field, following representation by parents. Parents present were unaware that such representation had been made.

e. Nursery Funding

Mrs Noble reported to the group that, following instructions from the Authority, the Nursery team had submitted bids for outdoor and indoor early years equipment, up to the value of around £20 000 in total. Unfortunately, the actioning of these bids has been suspended for the time being.

f. Adverse weather arrangements-

i. Parental notification:

Mr Black discussed the arrangements and procedures around school closures due to adverse weather. It was noted that as staff are travelling across such a diverse area, there can be some delay in establishing whether or not sufficient numbers of teachers will be on site to allow for the school to practically open. Only when this information is available can a decision around safe opening be made.

Mr Black assured the group that his priority will always be attempting to have the school open, even on a reduced length of pupil day, but the timing of the announcement will always be determined by having the relevant staffing information.

ii. playground snow clearing

Mr Black reported that some parental concern had been expressed around the condition of the playground during the period of extreme ice. It was noted that considerable effort was made by school staff and parents to address the difficulty although the conditions of the pavement around the school remained equally hazardous for several days subsequently.

g. Nursery Hours consultation

It was reported that the earlier consultation had generated rather inconclusive results. It was agreed that a more straightforward consultation process be undertaken to establish a more definite answer upon which to base the final decision.

h. Photographing of pupils

The unfortunate disregarding of Mr Black's request that no pupil photos from the Christmas show appear on social media was discussed. It was agreed that pupil safety must not be compromised in any way and as such, the taking of unauthorised photographs is potentially problematic.

It was agreed that on occasions when the taking of photos is appropriate, opportunities will be organised to allow for parents to capture images of their own children.

i. Notice Board

Discussions around the purchasing of new notice boards is on-going. The information gathered by Mrs. Cairns will be included in that process.

j. Recognition of Mr James's departure

It was noted that the Fund Raising Committee had marked the departure of Mr James with a small gift and card. This decision was acknowledged and met with the approval of the Council.

5. Future agenda items

- School Improvement Plan
- Pupil Equity Funding 2018-19
- Playground update

6. Date and time of next meeting

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March - 3:15 pm**

