

Present

Claire Horsburgh (Chairperson), Rebecca MacLeod, Chris Turner, Fiona Mackay, Carol McManus, Emma Grandison, Elaine Smith, Holly Ross (online), Kirsty Sinclair

Jim Lyon (Acting Head Teacher), Emma Scott (Teacher Representative), Amy Nicol (Teacher Representative)

Apologies

Amanda McDonald

Agenda Item and Discussion	Action
<p>Update from PC</p> <p>Welcome to new faces, hoping to see again in the future. Also welcome to Mr Lyon in a different role in this meeting as Interim Head Teacher.</p> <p>Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Parke on their arrival of baby Parke.</p> <p>Quite a quiet term last term but behind the scenes was busy, jumping in and out of different meetings on matters arising. Do have a busy term ahead, we might be looking for help with events etc.</p>	
<p>Head Teacher Update/Report (see attached document)</p> <p><i>ES - at a previous PC meeting it was talked about the changing of boundaries and with Duncan Forbes Primary not at capacity, we thought it (new enrolments) were going to be filtered for children coming to Smithton?</i></p> <p>JL - I am aware of situation at Cradlehall Nursery being capped at 17 children (in their Nursery) due to renovations happening which has had an impact on us and our numbers going forward. It is inconvenient for Cradlehall parents to pick up children from our nursery and then pick up older children already in Cradlehall so they are looking to move both/all children to Smithton. I was aware of a proposal for a new primary school in the area or high school, but these plans are not currently going forward.</p> <p><i>ES - I am worried for my eldest going to academy, already at 140% capacity with no help and no money to start the rebuild of Culloden Academy.</i></p> <p>CH - we have been in contact with Fiona Shearer as part of recruitment so can bring it up with her and bring back to the Parent Council.</p>	

CT - what was the figure for Head Teachers who would not encourage being a Head Teacher?

JL - it was a union survey, one of the questions was if we felt supported by our employer and HC were one of the worst. Survey was carried out at the same time as surveys for PTs.

CH - recruitment is still happening to fill Head Teacher post, third time going to advert but myself, Rebecca and Holly have been active in process and have been in regular meetings with Fiona Shearer. Will be doing some things next week and there will be more outcomes following that confidential process.

CT - are there any alternative plans? Grouping heads together, etc. (if no one found to be successful)

CH - we have been more than helpful (to Council) with ideas going forward and all other HT posts are still unfilled as well.

RM - we have continually asked for a back-up plan when interviews have not been successful. This will be the final time it is readvertised.

JL - there is an assurance from me that I will continue in post until I can.

AN - staff agree that the transition has been smooth for all, and we all have confidence in Jim going forward until someone in post.

CT - agreed and reflected from parents as well.

Overview from other meetings attended

PC keeping an eye on the PT situation - our PTs have been asked to step up despite the decision being made to remove them from role, have asked how the work is being rolled out once PTs do leave their roles within school.

JL - PTs are already not being replaced with retirements and maternity leave.

Claire has taken on Highland Parent Council Partnership - two meetings have happened with Scottish Cabinet for Education (in March); questions regarding behaviour, PTs, school buildings and wide range of other issues.

HPCP meeting (in April) - talked about outcome of previous meeting and raised a lot of questions with Scottish Government which should come from Local Authorities rather than PC. Interested to see what written responses say and will pass on to members.

No feedback given from discussions during meeting, but CH will circulate once given out.

<p>Nicky Grant was on approved leave and has now left her post (was main contact for Highland PC); moving forward there are interim solutions in place, so we still have a channel of communication with Highland Council.</p> <p>RM attended Collection of PCs - more to discuss concerns and issues in schools and identify if these concerns/issues are similar or different. Was a productive discussion, consensus was met about stability regarding headship and what as a parent group we can do to push Council or Scottish Government to act. Questions such as what can parents do on mass? Where can this go to support the schools? Everyone was in support, have issue with Local Authority and Scottish Government. Will bring more info as develops, second meeting to happen.</p>	<p><i>Any questions from PC members to be passed on to CH or RM to take forward to next meeting.</i></p>
<p>Policy, Procedure and Learning</p> <p>As previously discussed, Aileen came up with a Parent Charter for parents to commit to in the same way the school commits to teaching their children - for example making sure children come to school on time.</p> <p>Carol & Holly had initial brainstorm with Aileen, allowed us to get thoughts down between group. Good idea to leave for next HT, currently on hold.</p> <p><u>Walking from Home Policy</u> - name to be confirmed</p> <p>Encompasses everything from how we give permission to having younger children going home/coming to school themselves/after school clubs etc. Stress that the school is not responsible for the children until 9am each day.</p> <p><i>JL - unsure who is responsible for the child once they have left the house but will investigate legalities.</i></p> <p>ES - Smithton have chosen to have staff in the playground from 08:45am to ensure children are safe.</p> <p>In a working draft for PC members to view before agreeing. It is unlikely to be this term - early in August.</p> <p><u>Racism</u></p> <p>CH approached by a parent whose child was receiving comments about the colour of their skin, asked PC if they could work with the school to develop learning in the school. Open to suggestions and people to be on working group with JL to put in place.</p> <p><i>ES - could Learning Council be involved?</i></p>	<p><i>On hold until new Head Teacher is put in post to get their thoughts included.</i></p> <p><i>Suggestions to be put forward to CH</i></p>

<p>JL - the parent themselves has a breadth of experience from the past situation the child has been in and their own educational experience from where they originate from that we can use as a way of helping to educate us. We do have a wide range of cultural backgrounds in the school and anything we can do to tackle racism, we will support.</p>	
<p>Parking Iain Graham (contact at HC) has not been in contact with Claire, so we are back at the beginning with finding out how to move forward.</p>	<p><i>CH to email councillors with a contact and has had contact with Road Safety officer.</i></p>
<p>Wrap Around Care Questionnaires were posted on Facebook page for morning and after school, we have gone forward with 24 names and have exceeded that number and are now looking to identify rooms - 15 classes may jeopardise this?</p> <p><i>JL - we do have extra rooms and space and can be flexible, with priority for this. We have the capacity.</i></p> <p>Next step to put forward plans to Care Inspectorate as a new service. Progressing well in the background but will still be a 6month turnaround with this due to recruitment and moving forward. Wide range of children to be included from across the school.</p> <p><i>CT - who will run it?</i> <i>CH - Highland Council will recruit staff.</i></p>	
<p>Fundraising <u>Sports Day</u> P4-7 Races - Thursday 30th P1-3 Potted Sports - Tues 28th Swansons have donated a fruit basket for raffle.</p> <p><i>AN - still a few details to finalise but will let you know after tomorrow's staff meeting.</i></p> <p><u>Disco</u> Good meeting held online with parents and good ideas shared. Polls were sent on Facebook page to get parents view and comments. Age splits and times to stay the same, try to start 15mins early for Nursery.</p> <p>Generally, parents are happy to pay little bit more to include a goodie bag.</p> <p>Provisional date - Friday 21st June P7 Leaders Pizza Party to be held same evening.</p>	<p><i>PC to coordinate putting on something for those attending, depending on weather (teas, coffees, etc).</i></p>

<p>Molly O'Brien ran a 5K and donated money to the PC - thank you to Molly, she would like the money to be spent on resources in general for the school.</p>	
<p>Funding Requests PSAs are looking for playground equipment - skipping ropes etc.</p> <p><i>JL - we are looking to have different themes per day to create variety and have found an area to store playground equipment. Molly O'Brien is helping to make decisions with this with her fundraising money.</i></p> <p>Are PC happy to support school with adding funds to playground equipment if needing more money?</p> <p>Possible request from P7 - last term they held an enterprise to raise money to go towards their hoodies (raised £350). Have a little bit leftover and hoping to take P7 to Infinity Trampoline Park one evening, potentially £150 short.</p> <p><i>ES - do PC not give money to each class anyway? How much money do we have?</i></p> <p>CH - we did in previous years but haven't for a few years. This was to support class trips and cover bus costs. We have around about £5,000-£6,000 in our accounts.</p>	<p><i>PC agree to help with funding extra amount needed to cover costs.</i></p> <p><i>ESc to email CH if they need extra money. PC happy to support.</i></p>
<p>Smithton turns 50 Really want to celebrate and would like PC thoughts and ideas. P4-7 Learning Council have brainstormed ideas along a birthday fete/fair theme.</p> <p>Will work best if we all work together - school and PC. Already had discussions with JL to work together more with the end of year fete. 50th celebration can be a blueprint to scale down in future.</p> <p>Looking for a date in late August/early September - need to remember P7 trip to Glencoe two weeks.</p> <p><i>JL - We could start the year with Smithton learning around the community and celebration, start in August and build up to event in September.</i></p>	<p><i>Anyone in PC with contacts to pass on to CH.</i></p> <p><i>Working group to be created and any ideas for event to be passed on to either CH or RM</i></p> <p><i>Renewed guidance into having bouncy castles on site - JL to review.</i></p> <p><i>CH to review whether entertainment license will be needed</i></p>

<p>ES - CA had an enterprise group through Balloch Church and chose to support the youth club as their charity and organised a movie night. Will it be open to the community?</p> <p>CH - yes, open it up to ex pupils and the community.</p> <p>JL - would be able to get pictures and photographs from the community of the school, ex pupils and teachers.</p> <p>ES - there was something before that we had with pictures? When the new build was opening where we had a celebration.</p> <p>CM - could put out an appeal to the resident's association of other areas for people who have moved out of the area but are still close by?</p> <p>HR - could we include MFR to broadcast?</p>	
<p>Dates to Note 21st June - Summer Disco</p> <p>Through the High Life Active Sports, there is a Platinum award that hasn't been achieved from any pupil before - Scott Mackay has to organise a charity event (a treasure hunt) on 31st May for pupils. He will be the first to receive a Platinum hoody/award.</p>	
<p>AOCB Highland Council are offering Child Protection training for anyone volunteering in the school. If you do enrol, please keep a note for our risk assessments for parent helpers for Evolve.</p> <p>JL's line manager was on a mission to look at attendance/exclusions in her schools - we are above average in Highland. Asked why JL thought we were above average, and he took her on a walk around the school. She could see the relationships present, the calmness and adaptability of the staff to ongoing situations. We (as a school) do have some challenges with some attendance and across Scotland there has been an increase but Smithton are bucking the trend and are putting it down to the ethos within the school with our fostering of relationships.</p>	<p><i>Let CH know if you are interested in Child Protection courses - she can forward links on to you.</i></p>
<p>Date of Next Meeting AGM - September 2024 (w/c 23rd September)</p>	<p><i>If anyone would like to be considered for a committee role, please let Claire know. Even if shadowing or a job share.</i></p>