

MINUTES OF COCKENZIE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT LINK MEETING  
WEDNESDAY THE 25th AUGUST 2021

**Present:** Claire Jamieson (Co-chair and Parent Representative), Marie McMath (Co-chair and Parent Representative), Lynda Banks (Headteacher) Anne Thomson (Clerk), Louise Philips, (Parent Representative), Sean Stitt (Acting Deputy Head Teacher), Heather Cadogan (Parent Representative, Jennifer Harris (Parent Representative), Fiona O'Donnell (Local Councillor), Lachlan Bruce (Local Councillor), Jacqueline Carpenter (Parent Representative), Eilidh Watson (Parent Representative)

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies: Louise Clarke, Xanthe Duncan, Alexa Hill, Sarah Cunningham, Morven O'Byrne  
Introductions were made

AGM

Claire Jamieson presented the achievements of the Parent Council 2020/21 during what was an exceptionally difficult year for school, staff, children and parents. The Chairs thanked everyone for their contributions and time.

Despite the fact that P7 leavers were moving on to high school in difficult circumstances, they made the best of it with great outdoor events, as per pandemic restrictions at the time. They were all delighted to receive their leavers hoodie which was funded with the help of local organisations and businesses coming together for them.

Claire and Marie have continued to maintain their attendance at the Area Partnership meetings and the ELCAP meetings which is useful for understanding the role of the Local Authority and engaging with other groups. Claire is also admin for the parents and grandparents facebook page.

Despite the restrictions of access due to COVID and the required building work the group was able to get into the playground for some planting, we moved some bulbs around and planted seeds. We have been able to get a start of the willow den and painting of walls and tables since the start of term.

Due to the difficulties of the last year and the need for some consistency Claire and Marie have offered to stay on for another year as Co-chair, if required. As no-one was looking to take over the position, that was agreed. Voted and seconded by Jacqui C and Jen H. Anne Thomson to stay as Clerk was voted and seconded by Jacqui C and Eilidh W.

Claire suggested that we could have deputy chairs if someone would like to know more about the Chair role and confirmed that her and Marie would be stepping down at the end of this academic year.

Claire and Marie will confirm the coming schedule of Parent Council meetings. Lynda would prefer a return to 6 weekly, but the group would like to continue a monthly meet whilst we are trying to organise playground improvements and the impact of COVID is still ongoing.

## HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Lynda talked through her headteacher report, with thanks for the support of the Parent Council through this tricky year.

The School Improvement Plan is being finalised and will be issued to parents and the children will get an age appropriate one, this will be posted and share.

The main priority is to raise attainment in writing, which is a national goal. Lynda will be sharing the attainment data with the Parent council at the next meeting.

The UNCRC will be incorporated into the School Improvement plan and the school are encouraging increasing the pupils voice through re introducing Houses with Captains and Vice Captains which will be appointed with an even gender split, and accessing ELC's Active School's Future Leaders programme.

PEF funding has been allocated to the Speech and language to assist the staff in understanding the speech, language and communication needs of all pupils.

DHT appointment process is to start again, Parent Council members have attended training are part of that Process. They have been kept advised of the dates etc.

## PLAYGROUND ENVIRONMENT

See updated action plan

## AOB

Sean is organising the Bikeability programme.

Claire thought that there had been a donation of paint to the school a long time ago, Lynda will check for paint in storage.

Parent consultations will take place prior to October break.

A very kind member of the local community wanted to donate £20 to the playground improvements and gave cash to Jacqui C.

Heather C has kindly donated 40 metres of bunting. This needs to go somewhere high, so will need someone to attach it.

Area Partnership funding is available but this must be a collaboration with PTA due to Parent Council not having a bank account. Lynda is to discuss with PTA reps.

Date of Next Parent Link Meeting: TBC