

MINUTES OF COCKENZIE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY THE 13th OCTOBER 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), Xanthe Duncan (Parent Representative) Neil Gilbert (Local Councillor), Lachlan Bruce (Local Councillor), Eilidh Watson (Parent Representative)

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies: Louise Clarke, Alexa Hill, Sarah Cunningham, Morven O'Byrne, Jennifer Harris, Fiona O'Donnell, Jacqueline Carpenter

Minutes from April and August were accepted as accurate

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Lynda reported a very difficult start to the year due to staff absence. Currently management team are staffed by two instead of the usual five. Lynda thanked Sean for the extra support that he has provided her and the teaching staff have really pulled together.

There are still a high number of COVID mitigations in place which impact greatly on teachers and children.

The nursery have a high number of children still in nappies and the COVID recovery teacher is stepping in to cover classes, otherwise classes would have to be sent home.

New Deputy head will start on the 15th November and has already had a visit to the school and has met the classes. She was impressed with the polite and welcoming group of children we have at Cockenzie.

Parent consultations went well.

TEA AND TOAST

Dates to be issued by the school to try and get the turnout back up and there is a cheaper text alerts so that can also be used to remind parents. It is currently at the community centre, until the school opens up again.

Feedback can be done separately to the Headteachers report, or directly to any parent as required.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

SIP will be issued out to parents shortly, on the academic side this will have focus on handwriting, the achievement data for that is low. Resources are to be purchased to help standardise the teaching of handwriting and the goal is 70% achieved across, Early, 1st and 2nd level.

ELA's Quality Improvement officer is coming to the school, as the last review of teaching practices was 18 Months ago.

There is to be changes to the teaching of Relationships, Sexual health and Parenthood (RSHP) across all levels. This material will be shared with families and parents and carers can discuss with the school, if they wish. Website resources are also available to back up at home. All parent council members agreed that age appropriate teaching of sexual health, anatomy and relationships are very important to enable children to

discuss sensitive matters with confidence and ensure their safety. There will be some other catch up requirements built in as the P6's missed out learning about menstruation, due to COVID.

PLAYGROUND ENVIRONMENT

See updated action plan

The children have given loads of ideas over about what they want in the playground and this has been put onto a graphic.

AOB

Halloween Disco

There have been quite a few comments made to parent council members re the Halloween disco organised by the PTA. Issues around communication that the event was happening at all and also number of tickets available. Due to the fact it wasn't being held at the school and there are number restrictions and COVID guidelines to adhere too it was always a difficult choice, there is either an event held where some children are left disappointed or no event at all.

The school sent out two emails about the event with the first going out 5 days before tickets went on sale, so it was publicised by the school in plenty of time and on facebook groups before all tickets were sold out.

Book swap

This will get organised for next spring and the P7s will be part of this.

Community timetable

Claire J is considering how to compile a timetable of kids events via a facebook group. This would incorporate things like cubs, active schools, lessons and events. Lynda recommended using google forms to help with this and also checking in with the community centre as they may be able to start it, or have one already.

Dates for your diary Parent Council Meetings:

24th November 2021

26th January 2022

9th March 2022

4th May 2022

AGM 31st August 2022

Dates for your diary Tea and Toast at Port Seton Community Centre Café 2pm – 3 pm

Term 2: Monday 15th November 2021

Term 3: Monday 17th January 2022

Term 3: Monday 28th February 2022

Term 4: TBC