



GLASSFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting

held on Tuesday 8th December 2020 at 7.00pm

(via Zoom)

Members present: Gordon Innes (Chairman)
Christine Hall (Secretary)
Anne Anderson
Donna Storry
Janet Ballantyne

In attendance: Audrey Donnelly (Head Teacher), Yvonne Waring, Rev Shaw Paterson

1. Welcome

Gordon welcomed everyone to the meeting, held again via Zoom because of the current restrictions still in place in visiting the school as well as meeting in groups.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Isobel Dorman, Lee Rogers & Les Hogan.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Anne proposed, and Janet seconded the Minutes from the previous meeting.

4. Actions from Previous Minutes

- Bike Shelter – Marion Shearer at SLC is aware of our need and the request will be progressed in due course though this may require a travel plan to be worked through.
- The Application to Kype Muir Wind Farm for Kindle Tablets and covers was rejected but we will continue to look for other sources of funding for this.
- There is still some anxiety with some children understandably, but the Teachers are supporting these children well. Generally the health of the children is better than usual for this time of the year with regards to coughs and colds and it is hoped this will continue. This could be due to increased handwashing and better airflow within the School.

5. Correspondence

None that would not be discussed though the meeting

6. Fundraising

- A large street collection of ragbags was finally collected in November and we are awaiting the remittance, but we expect it to be close to £1000 for funds.
- The next ragbag street collection will be 4th March 21
- No other plans for fundraising are currently in place.
- We were successful with the application for £500 for loose parts play equipment via Community Council Microgrant and this has all been bought and is on site for use.

7. School Recovery Plan

- The classes are almost at the end of the Emotion Work pack, but this will continue to be used where appropriate and some areas will be explored again after Christmas in the new term. The School will continue to focus on Health & Wellbeing, with a particular focus on Mental Health.
- The Transition programme for the 4 P7's moving to the Academy will commence late January though no specific details have been received yet.
- P1 enrolment will likely initially be performed online – again details have yet to be received for this.
- Both classrooms sent snapshot folders home last week and though little feedback has been received, this was well received by parents and a good method of keeping parents involved.
- Christmas preparations are continuing for the recorded Nativity (which is taking a while to edit), the Christmas lunch and party/ crafts day which should all be good fun for the children.
- The Spring Bulb pots are being prepared and will be ready for pick up/ delivery from next week. Lots of nominations have been received for these.
- The last day for foodbank donations will be Tuesday 15th Dec. Thank you to everyone who has already donated items
- A 2021 Calendar has been created in collaboration with Anne (thank you) and this will be circulated to families and friends of the School
- Glassford is working together with all the other Schools within the Strathaven Learning Community for mutual benefit. One of the items discussed was parents' nights. It was agreed that all Schools would not be doing video or phone calls due to limitations with Internet and time. If any child needs support, the class teacher would be in touch with the parent anyway, regardless of formal parents' nights.
- School temperature. Windows and doors to the classrooms need to be kept open during classtime to improve the air flow – on advice of the Scottish Government and SLC. Children are encouraged to wear extra jumpers as required to keep warm. Christine raised this issue at a joint PC Meeting last week with other Schools and was advised this was the same guidance for all Schools in the Authority.
- Google Classroom – pupils in the upper classroom all now have access to Google classroom and the expectation is that if a child is well but needs to isolate, they could be passed work via this method. However, the Teaching Staff are still learning how to use it as well. It is anticipated that some homework could be sent via this method in January though there are still limitations because some children do not have adequate access to digital devices at home.
- Audrey was pleased to report that 3 chromebooks had been provided by SLC to the School for use by children who may have limited digital access at home.

8. Business

Gordon and Christine both represented the School at another virtual Joint Parent Council Meeting with all other Schools in South Lanarkshire. The main agenda item was of course Covid and the associated restrictions and processes in plans. It is reassuring that all Schools are being challenged in the same ways and are supporting each other to overcome issues in the best way possible. The number of positive cases within Schools remains very low compared to the Community statistics but

there are lots of children or classes isolating on a rolling basis that is causing some problems with continual learning.

It was felt important to note that the majority of parents at Glassford were confident their children were progressing well and that they were being incredibly well supported by the Teachers in these unusual times. Any learning issues are being dealt with individually and parents are involved directly, even although there have been no formal parent nights (this is a Learning Community decision and means Glassford is no different from any other local School). Communication home to parents is very good at Glassford and this effort is much appreciated, especially the snap shot bundles that were recently sent home. On speaking informally to other Schools in the area, we are very fortunate with what is in place at Glassford.

9. Any Other Competent Business

There were no other items of business raised.

10. Date & Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Glassford Parent Council will be Tuesday 26th January 2021 at 7pm via Zoom.

Gordon then closed the meeting at 7.45pm with thanks to everyone for attending.