**ELRICK PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL MINUTES**

**Thursday 17th June 2021, 7.00 pm**

Location: via Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Claire Taylor (Chair), Lauren Wade (Vice Chair), Nicola Johnston (Treasurer), Monique Blair (Secretary), Christina Daniel (Fundraising Coordinator), Fiona Fitzgerald (Grants Co-Ordinator), Fiona Thomson (Head Teacher), Leah Robinson (Depute Head Teacher), Jenny Anderson (Depute Head Teacher), Alessandra Savassi, Caroline Noble, Evelyne Ewen, Dawn Anderson, Cllr Iris Walker

Apologies: Donna Snowie, Bruce Bain, Cllr Ron McKail, Cllr David Aitchison

**Review of the Minutes of the Last Meeting & Matters Arising**

The minutes were agreed to be accurate.

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| Ref No | Date Raised | Action | Owner | Status |
| 1119-01 | 12/11/2019 | Wording of Behaviour Policy – all staff have now completed anti-bullying training. Policy review in progress. | Mrs Thomson | In progress |
| 1119-11 | 12/11/2019 | Purchase candy floss machine | Lauren Wade | On hold |
| 0920-03 | 22/09/2020 | Crisp Bag recycling - investigate as to why this isn’t working | Jenny Anderson / Claire Taylor | On hold |
| 1220-01 | 10/12/2020 | Institute of Physics Grant still to be spent. Requisition request completed. | Fiona Thomson | Open |
| 1220-02 | 10/12/2020 | Numicon Resources – approx £9200. Grant options to be investigated. | Fiona Fitzgerald | Open |
| 1220-03 | 10/12/2020 | Advise David and June Gordon Memorial Trust of the delay in purchasing the outdoor instuments. JA to go ahead and order from TTS. | Fiona Fitzgerald/Jenny Anderson | Open |
| 0221-01 | 04/02/2021 | Advice WECC on the status of the spend of their £500 donation towards picnic benches. Benches received. Photos to be sent to WECC after installation. | Claire Taylor/Fiona Thomson | Open |
| ~~0221-03~~ | ~~04/02/2021~~ | ~~Investigate options for 40~~~~th~~ ~~anniversary Bag for Life – pre-orders to be taken this term.~~ | ~~Claire Taylor~~ | ~~Closed~~ |
| 0221-04 | 04/02/2021 | Start advertising 40th anniversary and look at current pupils interviewing former pupils | Lauren Wade | Open |
| 0521-01 | 06/05/2021 | Investigate grant applications for gardening and eco projects – Tesco grabt applied for. | Fiona Fitzgerald | Open |
| ~~0521-02~~ | ~~06/05/2021~~ | ~~Elrick Anniversary Cookbook – template to be emailed out to parents for completion.~~ | ~~Claire Taylor/Christina Daniel~~ | ~~Closed~~ |
| ~~0521-03~~ | ~~06/05/2021~~ | ~~Book a Bag2School Collection~~ | ~~Claire Taylor~~ | ~~Closed~~ |
| 0521-04 | 06/05/2021 | 40th Anniversary Afternoon Tea – look at venues and available dates  | Christina Daniel/Nicola Johnston | On Hold |
| 0621-01 | 17/06/2021 | Elrick Extravanganza – Fiona to set up a sub group to organise | Fiona Fitgerald | Open |
| 06/21-02 | 17/06/2021 | Playground Resurfacing – look for a volunteer to lead on fundraising | Christina Daniel | Open |
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**Head Teachers Report**

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the report is to update the Parent Forum on key areas at Elrick School. This will include staffing, learning and engagement, school improvements, reporting to parents, and any other relevant information.

**Staffing**

**We have a reduction in ASL hours, resulting in the following moves:**

Mrs Reid, teacher of ASL will be taking up a post at Westhill Academy from August 2021

Mrs Stockdale will be working 2 days a week as a teacher of ASL. A vacancy will be posted for the remaining 2 day post for a teacher of ASL.

Wendy Aikenhead (PSA) will be leaving Elrick to work her full hours at Crombie School, Mrs Alison Frain will be coming to Elrick 5 hours a week.

The role of the ASL staff needs to be more focused on consultation with class teachers to strengthen the universal support available to all pupils in all classes.

**Reduction to 14 classes and the following staff movement:**

Mrs Duncan will be completing her fixed term contract with Elrick Primary at the end of this term.

Miss Black will be taking up a post at Westhill Primary School.

Miss Baldo will be taking up a post at Kemnay Primary School.

Ms Horner will be joining us as Principal Teacher.

Miss Montgomery is getting married in July and will be relocating with her new husband.

*We are disappointed to be losing staff but thank them for their support and hard work at Elrick and wish them all the best in their new adventures.*

**School Improvements**

The hut roof work was completed a week ahead of schedule, enabling P7 to return to Elrick School for the remaining 2 weeks of term.

The main school roof is on track to start at the beginning of the Summer holidays and is expected to take 12 weeks to complete.

Men shed have completed 10 picnic tables/benches which will be delivered to school ready for the start of the new school year.

We have now registered for both the Wellbeing Award and Leading Parental Partnership Award and will be establishing working groups to take this forward. We have had several parent volunteers for the Wellbeing Award but are still looking for parent volunteers for ‘Leading Parental partnership Award’. Please contact Fiona.J.Thomson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk if you are interested.

We requested a visit from Jane Craik, Education Scotland to review our progress in QI 2.3 – Learning, Teaching and Assessment and help us identify next steps to get us from very good to excellent. This will inform our school improvement agenda for next session.

Most staff have completed training on Emotion Coaching, CALM theory and Anti-bullying this school session. We now want to use this to review and update our Positive Behaviour and Anti-bullying policy.

**Reporting to Parent Opportunities**

As part of being a parent at Elrick School we try to provide a range of opportunities for you to find out about your child’s learning both as an individual and as part of their class.

* Annual reports were issued on Friday 14th May. Feedback about the new reporting template was mainly positive although we received minimal response to our Microsoft Form.
* Parent consultation meetings were very well attended.
* We have now been informed that Aberdeenshire are permitting the use of Seesaw (if using the paid version). We are going to explore if this provides a more effective home/school link as ‘Marvellousme’ has limitations.

**COVID update**

We have had several confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 this week which has resulted in classes having to self-isolate. We are working very closely with the NHS Health Protection team and following their advice on actions and next steps to follow.

A number of families are very anxious and choosing to withdraw their child(ren) from school – staff are trying to support this and are providing activities and links on the class Teams.

Those who have been tested positive so far have been asymptomatic or have experienced mild cold-like symptoms.

Please remember that if you do want to discuss anything about your child, please contact the school.

**Financial Report**





**Grants**

Fiona Fitzgerald has looked at grant options for resurfacing the playground and will continue to investigate. Options are limited and it is likely we will have to raise at least some of the funds ourselves.

**Fundraising**

* Dress Down Day on the last day of term. Theme to be “1981” to tie in with our anniversary year.

**Requests for Funding**

* Discovery Education - £1700 to be funded over 3 years. Approved.

**40th Anniversary Celebrations**

Fiona Fitgerald shared a presentation on her ideas for a 40th Birthday Extravaganza early next term. Agreed to go ahead and a small sub-group will work with Fiona to look at options. Lauren Wade, Christina Daniel and Monique Blair volunteered to help.

**Playground Resurfacing**

The playground surface is 40 years old and is crumbling. A quote for resurfacing is nearly £40,000. The local authority is very unlikely to have funds for this available. Agreed to look for someone to lead on fundraising ideas and options for this – Christina to do a post on facebook asking for volunteers.

**Items Raised via Class Reps**

None raised.

**AOCB**

Seesaw – Feedback for Marvellous Me has not been positive. Parents and staff would prefer to be able to use Seesaw again. GDPR requirements mean that the free version cannot be used but the paid version would be acceptable. For our school the cost would be approx. £1900 per year. School unlikely to be able to fund this so will require parent council fundraising.

**Dates of Next Meetings**

AGM Wednesday 8th September at 7pm via MS Teams

PC Meeting Wednesday 8th September at 7.30pm via MS Teams