

Harestanes Primary Parent Council Meeting

Minute of Meeting

Held in Kirkintilloch High School on Monday 27 November 2023

Present: Jackie Gillespie (Head Teacher)
Michelle MacDonald (Co-Chair)
Michelle Meechan
Andrea Campbell
Salome Oduro
Rachel Neilly (Teacher Representative)
Katie Montgomery (Clerk)

1. Welcome

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor MacDonald.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were adopted as being correct by Michelle MacDonald and seconded by Andrea Campbell.

4. Matters Arising

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

5. Councillors Update

As there were no Councillors present, there was no Councillor's update.

6. HT update

Staffing

Jackie advised that there had been many challenging staffing issues this term with more to come. Mrs Davidson will be reducing her hours to 0.6 FTE after Christmas. Ms Kirk in the office has returned to work 4 days a week and we are currently looking to recruit someone for the day she does not

work. We have new permanent SLA's in the ELR, Ms McElhaney and Miss McGuire. Miss Watson in the ELR will be going on maternity leave at Christmas and her maternity cover is currently advertised. Mrs Briggs has returned to Harestanes and is working as Classroom Assistant 12.5 hours per week. In addition, she is covering an SLA vacancy in mainstream (10hrs) until it has been filled. Mrs Hudson is currently on secondment to Count on Us. Michelle Meechan advised that she had attended Mrs Hudson Count on Us session and found it of great benefit but other sessions didn't suit due to work commitments. Jackie advised that other times were being considered for more Count on Us sessions.

Awards

We have achieved a Bronze Reading School Award and are working towards our Silver award. We are also working towards a Gold Award with Sport Scotland, having already gained our Silver Award.

School Improvement Plan

We are working hard in school to raise attainment in reading. Mrs McGregor is working with William Patrick Library staff and our Pupil Reading Leaders to try and achieve a Silver Award.

Mrs Grant is the Rights Respecting Leader promoting the rights of the child in school and we are working towards our Silver Award in this regards.

Mrs Neilly advised of the enhancements being made across the school to make us a Language and Communication Friendly Establishment.

Pupil Equity Fund

Jackie advised that it was her intention to use this year's PEF funding to buy additional staff. In addition, Mrs McGregor is being trained in Reading Recovery to raise reading attainment in school. We are also looking to appoint a Classroom Assistant for 12.5 hrs to help develop language in P1 - P3.

Miscellaneous

Jackie raised the ongoing issues regarding dog fouling in the playground. Jackie has advised that the Site Co-ordinator is very proactive trying to

keep the playground clean but that it is the dog owners in the community that need to be more responsible. The gates to the MUGA have been locked but apparently dog owners are physically lifting their pets over the fence to access this facility. Jackie advised that the MUGA is to be team cleaned on 1 December and prior to this a letter is going to be issued to all parents asking that we try and keep our space clean moving forward. Michelle MacDonald wondered if Community Wardens could patrol the area in the evening.

Communication

Jackie asked if everyone was happy with the forms of communication used by the school. In all everyone appeared happy but they were aware that there was always the possibility of communications being missed due to pressure of everyday life.

PTA/Parent Council membership

Jackie advised how important both these groups were to the school community but everyone is very aware that there isn't the support needed to make both groups a success. Michelle asked if an advert could be added to the next Newsletter.

Electric Screen/Zumbathon

Jackie advised the committee of the installation of the new electric projection screen in the hall and what a difference it is making in school and in particular in school assemblies. Jackie advised that this screen's purchase would not have been possible without the great work of the PTA.

Registration

Jackie advised the committee that Clerk to the Committee, Katie Montgomery, was stepping down due to family commitments which has been making organising meetings more difficult. Michelle MacDonald thanked Katie for her assistance to date.

7. Chairpersons Update

Michelle has no updates to report.

8. AOCB

There was no other competent business to discuss.

9. Date of the next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on 26 February 2024.