

# **Onthank Primary School**

## **Parent Council**

**Minutes from Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

**Meeting from 1930hrs – 2030hrs**

<b>Present:</b>	Glynis Findlay (AHT)	Karen Cook (ADH)	David McIlwraith (ADH)
	Scott Thomson (Chair)	Fiona Anderson	Ross McMahon
	Karen Paterson	Karen Thomson	Jackie O'Neil
	Cllr Maureen McKay		

<b>Apologies:</b>	Shirley McAvoy	Amanda Skinner	Meg Sneddon
	Julie Urquhart	Caroline Strain	Julie Klein
	Cllr Helen Coffey		

### **1. Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Minutes from previous meeting were held as accurate. No matters arising.

Proposed: Karen Patterson

Seconded: Karen Thomson

### **2. William McIlvanney Transitions**

a. Councillor Maureen McKay praised the recent visit to the new William McIlvanney Campus. Maureen felt this was a worthwhile experience and that O.P.S had been well represented at the event. It was also noted that the new school was holding a consultation meeting this week in creating their new school values.

### **3. Head Teacher Interviews**

a. ST reported on the Head Teacher interviews which took place on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

After a successful interview, Alison Wright (HT from Gargieston PS) was appointed HT of Onthank Primary School. There is currently no official start date for the new HT and it is hoped this will be confirmed soon. Parent Council members who were present during the interviews

commented that the children's views from the focus group matched those of the Parent Council. ST praised the way the pupils carried out their duties during the interview process.

b. GF will revert to the role of Depute Head Teacher. The position of a second DHT was also discussed. As funding for this position has been previously approved by the authority, ST will discuss this position with the new HT, Alison Wright.

#### **4. Head Teacher Update**

a. Staffing update – Mrs Newall now on maternity leave. Mr Clarence will be covering P5N until a teacher becomes available. Mrs Newall's PT ASN and ICT post is being covered 0.5 PT ASN by Mrs Strain and 0.5 PT ICT by Mr Boyd.

b. Recent school successes included:

- P4 classes held a very successful America Day Show to parents.

- The school held two very well attended parents' meetings with P7s helping as monitors. All parents seemed happy with teachers and pupil progress.

- A range of visits have occurred throughout the term. These included: P7s to Danger Detectives and the Science Centre, P6s to Scotland Street, P5s to Dundonald Castle and P3s to the Cinema. All visits were linked to class topical studies.

- Three Hallowe'en discos were held and were also well attended by pupils. Both the PTA and parent helpers were thanked for organising this.

- World Porridge Day was the theme for our Harvest Assembly on 30<sup>th</sup> October. The school was joined by Rev. George Lind who discussed his personal experiences in Malawi. The pupils also got the chance to taste porridge and watched the Mary's Meal film, What a Difference a Day Makes. £83 has been raised for Mary's Meals as part of the Harvest celebrations.

- The Athletics Team won the Ayrshire Athletics Championship in September.

- P2s and P6s had a visit from violinist, Mr Ian Peaston. The visit has had positive responses from both pupils and teachers.

c. Whole School Photograph – This was taken last month and is currently being 'stitched' and should be available soon. GF informed parent council that she had been informed the quality may not be as anticipated.

d. Standards and Quality Report – the report for the 2016-2017 session has been submitted to the authority. This details the schools successes during the session and highlights areas of improvement. It is available online via the school website should anyone wish to view it.

e. GF informed the Parent Council that there would be an ASN quality assurance visit from the authority on 20<sup>th</sup> November. This is to quality assure our ASN procedures.

f. GF discussed the December calendar and some of the events that are to occur throughout the month. The calendar has been sent to parents and is also available online.

g. DM informed Parent Council of a recent Homework Audit that had taken place. Staff have worked with stage partners to generate a list of all current homework procedures. This has provided management with a clear overview of homework at each stage and has been beneficial in ensuring consistency and progression across the school.

## **5. Numeracy Update – David McIlwraith**

- a. DM provided an update on numeracy training within the school. 2 members have staff (1 Teacher and 1 Learning Assistant) have been appointed by the authority to assist with targeted intervention in relation to numeracy. Both members of staff are working closely with the 3 members of staff in P1, P4 and P7 who attended numeracy training in September. Focus is on raising attainment with pupils in a variety of mathematical groups.
- b. Staff across the school have also been provided with training led by DM on how to create a positive mathematically learning environment. Both GF and DM commented on positive changes within the classrooms that have been observed during recent class observations.
- c. New maths planners are also being used by staff across the school. This is following a roll out of new guidance across all schools in East Ayrshire.

*Meeting halted due to fire alarm.*

Date of next meeting TBD.