**Minutes from parent council meeting on the 28th March 2017**

**Attendees: David Wilkins, Darren Anderson, Margaret Ferguson, Nicola Cameron, Anna Conniff, Michelle Murphy, Frances Rowe, Hazel Willox**

**Welcome and apologies**

**Carrie Heddle had sent apologies.**

**Previous minutes approved**

**HT report**

Mrs Ferguson talked about improving approaches to reporting to parents, moving towards changes will be made to incorporate ongoing feedback rather than just the written report at the end of Term 4.  This was the focus of the in-service days in February. Education Scotland still requires a written report to go to parents, but what it looks like will be entirely up to individual schools.

Fishermoss staff have been looking at best practice in other schools and are proposing the following changes:

* During the 2017/2018 academic year the report layout will be revised and the school will look for feedback from parents and staff to develop changes, these changes would incorporate a more balanced volume of writing for staff. (Teachers do not write reports in class time)
* Term 4 a simplified child report would be provided by teachers with children involved in writing a learning statement (Teachers have tried templates and formats for ease of use for children.) The reports shall include comments to reflect progress as a summary with emphasis on next steps and development.
* 'meet the teacher' renamed as 'show and tell' and moved to Term 2
* Parent teacher consultations in terms 1 and 4
* scrap the profile folders (currently term 3) and replace with termly feedback sheets (to be in the homework diaries) that give brief feedback on effort, attitude and behaviour. A snap shot of each child’s progress or improvement needed would be included by teachers, with sections for pupils and parents to add comments.
* Achievements shared e.g. when star writer and other awards have been given, the associated piece of work will go home for the parents to see on that day.
* A new learning celebration book be introduced where targets met throughout the year can be logged, achievements can be shared with parents throughout year rather than in profile folders once a year. Teachers from P3 to p7 would encourage child to input information in relation to their academic work minimum twice a term during terms 2 and 3 so that an academic update can be given to parents. (A balance would need to be met where children acknowledge targets being met and staff are looking out for moments but children do not get bored of inputting information.) Within the learning celebration book there would be scope for parents and carers to comment.
* P1-P2’s would have a wee note or sticker in homework diary to mark achievements.

Fishermoss will try to look at other methods of communication rather than writing, throughout all aspects of the school.

Staff are keen for every class to have an annual open session for parents whereby children would be given the opportunity to showcase their class with their teacher. e.g. maths, mini assembly, showcase, enterprise.

We need to make sure parents are aware of experiences and outcomes the child/class are working towards.

We need to build on items already in use e.g. the snow report, information leaflets offered to parents making them aware of how they can support their children at home.

It was mentioned that Mr Barrow uses a class points system (Class Dojo) which parents can view, and some of the parent council members found this really helpful. This is not expected from all teachers at Fishermoss and is a choice the individual teacher will take.

Parents will be given the opportunity to indicate which of the current/proposed consultation methods they like best at the upcoming parents’ evening, through ticking options on a sheet.

**Modern language**.

Modern language has to be implemented in every school by 2020.

Modern Languages will be offered from nursery through to P7. Teachers had to decide as a cluster on which language. Fishermoss School has chosen French.

A leaflet will be handed out to parents in the near future with further information.

**Pupil council**

Pupil questionnaires were handed out regarding healthy choices at Fishermoss and results were fed back in our previous newsletter. Discussions are held in classes and representative take the findings to teachers.

79% of students agreed that Fishermoss encourage them to make healthy choices. 21% disagreed. The pupil council have organised one day a week where students must encourage a healthy snack. When a healthy option is taken, points will be collected for the class and rewards will be offered to the healthiest class! Fruity Friday was discussed however it was agreed Wellbeing Wednesday was a better choice.

The pupil council has come up with minimum eco expectations to be met in all classes as per the Global Warriors aims. The school has been focusing on global goals and UN sustainable goals. Mr Barrow’s P6 class was the only Aberdeenshire school representative at the UN global sustainable goals conference, for which they wrote and performed a song. Maria Walker visited the school to see their performance.

**Staffing and savings**

Given that there are staff shortages, it was agreed that stability was needed throughout the school. The senior leadership team have worked overtime which has helped save on the budget which would have been used for supply teachers. The costs saved helped fund new carpets within the infant areas and hopefully in the near future a new classroom door for the P6 class.

**Purchase requests**

At Halloween discos, we regularly hire flood lights for £150. It was agreed David will look into funding to purchase our own which can be used for many different events. Mrs Ferguson will look into seeking authorisation to install by contacting relevant persons and recommend this is for security and safety.

**2017/2018 academic year**

There will be 11 classes in the next academic year based on our p1 intake.

14 primary children and 10 nursery pupils have moved to Hillside.

All out of zone pupils have been accepted.

It was hoped all classes could move forward as is but this will not be possible because of numbers so movement will not be as simple as initially thought.

A FAQ information leaflet will be designed for parents and children of composite classes. Nicola Cameron provided a list of questions and Mrs Ferguson and Miss Anderson completed the information leaflet.

**Hillside**

On Hillside Primary’s last day at Fishermoss a presentation took place where we gave staff gifts for their staff room, a bible for the new school and books for their library. P7’s also threw a party for their buddies which they had been mentoring while at Fishermoss.

**Playground**

The agility trail A frame has been blocked off as bark was missing and concrete showing causing H&S concerns. At installation, the decision to place agility trail at a height was the parent council’s, at the time the company stated the bark pit should be sunk, however this was thrown out by the previous parent council as financial and time constraints were in place. Once completed it was discussed that the height of the bark pit to the original curb was incorrect and the bark area was extended to the concrete part of the playground to offer better gradient. Aberdeenshire Council are looking for the pit to be sunk and costs of £800 covered by the school.

Aberdeenshire Council will pay for the bark to be topped up but not the £800. Bark is to be added in April in the new financial year however it will need topping up more frequently because previous advice was not taken. A PC member asked if the bark could be topped up by the PSA however this is not allowed.

Parent council to pay for the agreed work to be carried out to fix the agility trail and PSA will be asked if they can pick up tab if any extra costs are incurred. Mrs Ferguson asked for this to be actioned in the Easter holidays.

**Charity donations**

Fishermoss received an email from a parent asking if the school would look into sponsoring a child at £26 a month. The school does try to support local charities and we offer donations to national charities through dress as you please days for comic and sports relief.

It was agreed that we would organise to sponsor a child at the end of the year. Information will be sent out to parents before our comic / sports relief in March 2018 and we would use some of the money raised to sponsor a child. The parent council felt this would be a great opportunity to allows students to follow the progress of our sponsored child’s education while working their way through the school from nursery to P7. The charity and child will be agreed at a later date.

**Technology**

Our Xerox printers are not working with the computers and our IPods are now outdated due to technology updates.

IT is supplied and supported by Aberdeenshire council. It was asked by a PC member if we can purchase devices and software from an external source, however we cannot do this as council try to limit devices to prevent connectivity problems.

Computers are upgraded and maintained by Brian Black at Portlethen Academy, who maintains the full Portlethen cluster, however upgrades and maintenance will take place when the council feels necessary and this happens on a rolling basis with other schools, when funds allow.

**Parking**

There are ongoing safety concerns about the side gate exit from school onto Berrymuir Road as there are no zigzags on the road at this point and many cars park/hover there at school pick up time, despite repeated requests to use Bourtree car park. Since this is the exit that many of our youngest pupils use the Parent Council discussed closing the side gate on a trial basis to ensure the safety of pupils. MF agreed to inform the parent body through the newsletter and speak to the children about this in assembly. It was agreed that the side gate should be shut after the May holiday weekend.

**Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 6th June, 7pm