

NEWBIGGING PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 22ND MAY, 2014, AT 6.15PM

Present: Kathryn Foot, Paul Donaldson, Diane Melvin, Lynsey Milne, Lesley Murray, Craig Nugent, Ashley Thomson, Lesley Milloy, Anne Bruce

Apologies: Gillian Alcorn, Lorna Rogers

Kathryn opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, then Lesley Milloy addressed the meeting:

Action

Lesley advised that a lottery grant of £1,059 had been approved for improvements to the playground.

It was confirmed that the Parent Council is happy to help with funding for creating a new library/open area. The best quote received is £750 to take down both partitions and make good the flooring and ceiling. The school has an underspend from 2013/14 which can be used for blinds and a screen for assemblies. The work is due to be carried out over the summer holidays.

Inspection: Lesley spoke briefly about the upcoming inspection and what she will be saying to the inspectors about what the focus has been on since she started at Newbigging and her plans for the future of the school.

Parents felt that there was no middle ground on the inspection questionnaire to reflect transition

Kathryn asked how the Parent Council could help the school with the inspection. Parents have been invited to meet with the inspectors.

Lesley outlined the week of the inspection and advised that everything would be confidential until the report was published

Parental Involvement: the school would like to see more long term parental involvement. Even once a fortnight/month would be helpful. Suggestions included supporting in nursery and classrooms, art/craft clubs, sports clubs etc. A letter to be issued to parents asking for help.

Lesley

Health Week: There has been very positive feedback on Health Week. Lesley praised Elaine Patullo and Rebecca Ringsell (Monikie teacher) for their hard work to create a busy but enjoyable week for the children, as well as encouraging more interaction between the staff of the 2 schools. This is very important in a small rural school.

RME: There have been a couple of queries raised by parents, in both schools, about RME and how it is taught, as well as events being held in

church. It is felt that some people are not entirely comfortable with this. Paul suggested that perhaps events could be held in Monikie hall, which has the advantage of plenty parking. The main concern was with the wording and content of what children are being told at assemblies and services by the school chaplain.

Lesley informed the meeting that cluster heads had looked at outcomes to simplify what to teach children. RME has to be delivered around "some people believe" rather than delivered as fact. Children are taught about different religions and cultures.

The general opinion was there was not a problem with the teaching of religion, but rather that the minister needs to soften up his approach. Lesley has spoken to the minister about this.

It was agreed to get feedback from parents on suitable venues for events. Lesley will put out a questionnaire before the end of the year.

Lesley

Behaviour: Diane felt that parents do not know what the behaviour plan for the school is, with children being moved out of class in the past. Lesley advised that this was no longer an issue.

Starting next month staff and children are going to be trained in restorative practices, trying to address why a child has behaved in a particular way and help them to understand their own behaviour.

At present Lesley takes time working with children to sort out problems.

Diane suggested that the parent of a child on the receiving end of unsuitable behaviour may perceive that there is no accountability. Lesley assured the meeting that any issues raised were dealt with and parents have to trust that this is being done appropriately. If parents want to know about incidents they should approach the school rather than other parents.

Summer Fete: It was decided that the day before the fete the children can dress down for school. A letter will go out to parents asking for a donation for the tombola rather than £1.

The fete was then discussed and jobs allocated.

Parent Council

EGM: An Extraordinary General Meeting will be held in school on Thursday 19th June at 6.15pm to elect a Committee for next session.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.