

Uryside School – Term 1 - Parent Forum AGM Draft Agenda

Thursday 9th September 2021 at 6.30pm Online

Present

Joanna Bruce (JB), Dawn Carnegie (DC), Lisa Coutts (LC), Kim Dodd (KD), Councillor Marion Ewenson (CME), Alisa Foster (AF), Catherine Liebnitz (CL), Rachel Corsar (RC), Lindsay Glennie (LG), Cheryl Pow (CP), Lynne Adu (LA), Miriam Peterson (MP), Claire Shewan (CS), Lyndsay McGunnigle (LM), David Shanks DS)

Apologies

Councillor Neil Baillie (CNB), Councillor Lesley Berry (CLB), Janet Christie (JC), , Claire Green (CG), Emma McKimmie (EM), Adrian Stewart (AS), Councillor Judy Whyte (CJW)

1. WELCOME AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

CL approved the previous minutes. There were fifteen people attending, which is an improvement in numbers.

2. COUNCILLOR REPORT

CLB gave the councillor's report. Covid still looms large and most of the council is still working from home. The crossing planned for outside Davidson's Butchers should hopefully be in place by the end of year. Inverurie Town Hall upgrade is still ongoing. The old medical centre has been demolished with no current plans in place - it is still believed to belong to the NHS. Inverurie Community Council members have been litter picking on the last Saturday of every month and this will continue through winter. Landscape services have been getting behind this year. It has helped with office space strategy to know that people can work partly at home - this has given huge savings in travel expenses/time. There is also now an Inverurie Vision 2030 Group set up concerning how the town will look in the future and anyone is welcome to join these meetings. This is especially relevant to the Uryside area as we are a newer part of the town.

CME added that the police have been carrying out speed checks on the Oldmeldrum Road but these have been limited and more will be requested. JB stated that parents are always being asked to report any incidents.

KD stated that regarding the discussion on vandalism to the school roof at a previous meeting, there is now an email address for lets for the school if any groups i.e. dancing schools, boys brigade etc are interested. She also felt there was nothing in the area for the older children to do and this is causing problems/complaints from residents in Keithhall Estate, as well as reports of children not acting safely on the roads and riding bikes without lights. KD had to go up and visit Keithhall estate to make her presence felt. The school unfortunately hasn't been able to do Bikeability, due to lack of adult volunteers, and she feels this is absolutely essential. RC felt the sheer amount of children hanging around together and making a noise can be quite intimidating. JB felt that something along the lines of a youth club would be amazing and asked if there are any plans to have something like this in the community campus. CME replied that play equipment is planned to go into Uryside Riverside Park, the council rep is on board, there will be outdoor adventure type equipment to encourage children to use their imagination. The school MUGA also can't be

used in the evening as it has to be kept locked if no one is there to supervise and there won't be money for a caretaker until we have some lets, or any lets until we have a caretaker. The school really needs to be used as a community campus for anything to be accessed. Action on JB to share the email for lets.

3. ELECTION OF MEMBERS

The following were reelected for another year: JB as Chair, AF as Secretary and CL as Treasurer. JB felt it would also be advisable to elect a Vice Chair in future.

4. HEADTEACHER REPORT

KD thanked everyone for their support over the last year and hopes the new school year will be more stable.

There are currently 406 pupils in primary school and 2 sessions in the nursery with 33 children in each. One session covers all day Mon, all day Tue, up until lunch on Wed and the next session for the rest of week. The two bubbles were organised prior to summer following guidance. Mitigations are being stepped down now and we will become more flexible and increase capacity to 48 children at any one time with a full roll out of 1140 hours. The children also have a morning snack, hot lunch and a hot afternoon tea free of charge.

Free school lunches have been extended to P4, with P5 to follow shortly, and from August next year the entire school will be eligible. Trips are being planned for P6/P7 for late in the school session with providers with a minimal risk of cancellation. We would also hope to be able to run extended events next year, community calendars have been made up for the year and these will begin asap. We also hope to be able to welcome volunteers back into school soon as well as other partners. We have new P7 House Captains and welcomed them to a meeting with the senior leadership team (all properly distanced) with their wonderful plans for this term. With regards to the school roof vandalism prior to summer, one child was identified and has attended the school with Mr Shanks/their parents to apologise and has agreed to work with the school to make reparations.

We also have an additional probationary member of staff this year and will have 16 classes instead of 15. In general the children have settled well, there have been a few wobbles due to chopping/changing members of staff. We also have Kickstart PSA's working for 6 months and have another person starting as a digital admin assistant This benefits both parties. There is also another new pupil equity funded PSA working part time and another PSA (with another appointed today and joining in a few weeks time). Ms Watson and Mrs Murray are the two probationers this year, with Mr Lowry covering maternity leave this year.

KD showed a powerpoint presentation of what the school has achieved this year. Everyone should have access to digital devices now, as far as the school is aware. DS had the task of distributing these during home learning as requested and felt that the school had done the best it could with putting the information out there that laptops/chromebooks/dongles were available. There was also an arranged safe collection point with around 40/50 devices loaned out,

JB asked about the PF funding the cost of Seesaw. This has already been paid, action on CL to speak to the office to cover cost. She also asked whether there would be an

appetite for an Out of School Club at Uryside. It was felt that if there was a demand, this would be much more convenient than pupils travelling to other locations (approximately 50 take buses/taxis at present). This would need to be instigated by parents and the let situation also discussed with Aberdeenshire council. Action on JB to discuss with Claire Green who helped found the school breakfast club.

5. CHAIR REPORT

The PF have tried this year to support the school and families by being the link between both when needed. Facebook has been the best source of communication over the last year but we would like to reintroduce the newsletter of previous times as a periodic update for parents. We have lost some members due to personal commitments and children moving on and thank them all for their time. The PF currently has six members plus fundraising, but three of the six hold committee roles. We would really like to see more parents join us to make sure that all classes/stages of Uryside are represented.

Road safety has been an ongoing issue. The PF have addressed parking issues, road crossing concerns and followed up on the Osprey Village road safety audit. The Councilor's have worked with us to follow up with council roads department and police to set up speed checks and be present at school when possible. We will continue to support the concerns of families where we can.

Fundraising has been very quiet due to restrictions. We hope to support upcoming school fundraisers and hold our own events as and when permitted. We were happy to provide the afternoon tea for staff at the end of term last year and the building of the outdoor learning areas, and hope there will be much more to come this year.

6. FUNDRAISING/SOCIAL EVENTS

Apologies from EM, no update available.

7. TREASURER REPORT

CL gave the Treasurer Report. The PF has provided a medal for all the children participating in the Santa Run. They also provided a new salt spreader for the school's new janitor. Snacks and drinks at the sports day were also funded, as well as some materials for the outdoor learning areas such as nails etc. CL stated there is plenty of money available in the account for other funding.

8. AOCB

KD stated that there would be an official opening of the outdoor learning area and thanked everyone for their input. JB thanked all of the parents for attending the meeting.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is due at 6.30pm on Thurs 11/11/21.