

## Aboyne Academy Parent Council

### Minutes of Meeting - Tuesday 12th January 2016

#### Attendees

Office Bearers	Parent Council Members
Sarah Leahy (Chair)	Sheila McMurtrie
Lynn Murphy (Vice Chair )	Catherine Thomson
Andrea Geddes (Treasurer)	Gill Ewart-Bannister
Pam Bruce (Secretary)	
Lorraine Scott (Head Teacher)	
Laura Larkworthy (Teacher Rep)	

#### **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Geva Blackett, Cllr. Katrina Farquhar, Jo Croll, Karen Birnie, Emma Davis and Colin Freeley.

#### **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Outstanding items were

1. Folios and Assessments - the possibility of creating a timetable in order to provide some degree of flexibility – This has now been passed to Gina Drummond to action and process.
2. Careers Fayre – Michael Foy is still looking into this and Lorraine & Laura advised that the 5<sup>th</sup> year pupils were to be approached to help organise the fayre. In addition to that the school is hoping to set up a “Business Breakfast” for around March/April time to try and get parents on board.
3. Senior Pupils Quiet Study area – This has been looked at and staff are presently looking at timetables with regards classroom availability. These may be offered to pupils on a trust basis and will be fed back directly to pupils in due course.
4. Provision of additional seating for senior pupils is being looked at with Arcadion and Craig Clement Head of Service for Aberdeenshire Council.
5. Homework Tracking – Ongoing. Lorraine has spoken to “Show my Homework” and has negotiated a free 3 month trial for Aboyne Academy. During this period the system will be trialled in the school and teachers asked for feedback at the end of the 3 months before a decision is taken.
6. School Uniform – Positive feedback has been given to the school from parents with the majority in favour of the more practical option but perhaps smartened up slightly. Lorraine is keen to set up a focus group and involve the pupil council to discuss any issues.
7. Self Evaluation Policy – This is ongoing
8. Gum Guards for Sport – Lorraine had a meeting with the PE department and the local authority regarding the authority’s position and will clarify the schools position in this matter.

## CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

- Sarah advised that “Aboyne Twinning Association” was due for renewal – Aboyne’s twin town of Martignas has invited the association to visit them in June 2016. School children and their families are very welcome but under 18’s must be accompanied by a parent. Although the trip is in term time it was thought that perhaps some of the current 6<sup>th</sup> year pupils may be interested. It was agreed to renew the subscription.
- Sarah then showed a letter from “Parent Network Scotland” – See below

Parent Network Scotland

Hi Colleagues,

Parent Network Scotland has a new website at [www.parentnetworkscotland.org.uk](http://www.parentnetworkscotland.org.uk), and we'd really appreciate your help to let as many people know about this as possible.

You can help us in three ways:

- 1 Forward this email onto your friends and colleagues, and ask them to forward it onto others.
- 2 Share our [tweet](#), [facebook post](#) or [linkedin update](#) with your network.
- 3 Create your own facebook post, tweet or linkedin update – if you are tweeting about us, please remember to include @PNScotland and a link to the website.

Our new website has loads of new features.

- Updated information on all our work, including our Big Lottery Funded Parent Link Volunteer Programme.
- A calendar of training opportunities for parents and professionals
- A blog where parents and professionals can share their knowledge and experience with others. If you'd like to blog for us, please let us know.

Thanks for your help!

Rachel Hannan  
Education Support Officer

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## TREASURERS REPORT

- Andrea Geddes reported that the Christmas Fayre made £663.90 and the Christmas Concert had made £294.00
- The current balance in the account was £1,223.67
- The committee agreed to donate £900 to the school

## **HEAD TEACHER REPORT**

### **1. Attainment**

Authority attainment review was a positive meeting with some specific action points and new targets set for 2016

Marr Area Committee meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>

Mentoring programme this session will targeted towards pupils requiring interventions

Faculty PTs have met with HT and SLT link member to discuss 2015 attainment and identify areas for improvement where appropriate

### **2. Self- Evaluation**

Ian Parkin (HT Support) delivered a CPD session for all staff highlighting the importance of ongoing self-evaluation at teacher level.

The first set of classroom observations have taken place with SLT link member and PT observing each Faculty member with the focus being on personalised support for all pupils. Faculty feedback now taking place and follow-up observations planned for term 4 with teaching staff being paired up with either PT or SLT to carry our observations to share good practice.

HGIOS 4 will be the new self-evaluation toolkit from 2016/17 session and staff training in this area will be necessary.

### **3. Communication**

Teacher focus groups have looked at the SEEMIS referral system as a means of improving communication with regard to pupil concerns. This will be rolled out in conjunction with restorative practice over the remainder of the session.

A focus group has also looked at Show my Homework – the electronic homework platform. There is still some ongoing debate as GLOW has also been improved and would not have a cost associated with it.

### **4. School Uniform**

Staff and pupils are largely in favour of retaining a practical uniform similar to what is already in place. However there will be a tightening up of guidelines and enforcing uniform policy. Pupil focus groups will be set up this term to get their input on any changes.

### **5. Adverse Weather**

The Performing Arts Faculty will put on a show to provide funds for the families affected by recent flooding. School staff will support children to replace lost work or textbooks and guidance staff are on hand to support with emotional problems resulting from the difficulties they may have experienced.

Jim Savege visited the school on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January to pledge authority support.

During Adverse Weather there is an option to delay the start of the school day and bus companies will generally work with us to ensure the safe transport of our young people.

### **6. Staffing complement**

We have yet to recruit a HE teacher to replace Mrs Brady who is on Maternity leave.

We are also seeking a biology teacher to replace Ms Green although Ms Zacarias has joined us this term in physics.

### **7. Parental Involvement in Working Groups and other school matters**

Feedback on current Vision, Values and Aims of Aboyne Academy and suggestions for change.

## **FUNDRAISING**

### **Bingo Night**

The Bingo Night has been confirmed as Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March @ 7.30pm in the Victory Hall in Aboyne. Entry Tickets are £2 per person and open to all ages and its Bring your Own drinks.

Bingo tickets will be available to buy on the night along with Markers.

Lynn Murphy has offered to collate prizes and a Whisky shove, Prosecco shove and kids Easter egg shove will be part of the evenings events. **Action (LM)**

Andrea will follow up with the Bingo machine provider re running order etc. **Action (AG)**

Andrea confirmed that Stephen Lindsay has kindly offered to compare.

Tickets were taken by members present to sell and the rest given to the Lynn and Sarah to try and sell at Parents Evening on Monday evening. **Action (All)**

Pam said she will place an advert in the Deeside Piper. **(Action PB)**

Pam will prepare a poster and issue to parent council members and the school to distribute around villages and put on the school website. **(Action PB)**

### **Parents Evening Teas**

Andrea reported that the evenings so far had raised approx £70. It was thought that perhaps this may gain momentum. A suggestion was made that we should sell any unwanted uniforms and revision books/past papers that are handed in to the school.

### **AOB**

A parent had approached a PC member with concerns that their child had been affected by 3 of the recent staffing changes. Lorraine and Laura both advised that contingency support had been put in place and that the school will ensure that they continue to support the affected pupils.

The committee commended the school on the decision to stop issuing paper versions of the newsletters to parents, unless specifically requested.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April @ 7pm**