

Aboyne Academy Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting - Tuesday 10th January 2017

Attendees

Office Bearers	Parent Council Members
Sarah Leahy (Chair)	Katherine Thomson
Lynn Murphy (Secretary – joint role)	Andrea Geddes
Gill Ewart-Bannister (Secretary – joint role)	Cat Houston
Julie Mitchell-Mehta (Treasurer)	
Lorraine Scott (Head Teacher)	
Karen Birnie (Teacher Representative)	
Michael McCann (Teacher Representative)	

Other attendees:

Barry Drennan - (DHT, Aboyne Academy)

Jayne Stratton (Head Teacher, Lumphanan Primary School)

Donna Wilson (Aberdeenshire Council Parental Engagement Officer) - part of meeting

3 members of The Parent Forum

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Sheila McMurtrie, Jo Croll, Laura Larkworthy & Cllr Geva Blackett.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (Wednesday 26th October 2016)

From previous discussions about the possibility of after school rugby for S1 and S2 pupils. There will be a new girls rugby club (boys also welcome) starting on 17th January. It will be run as a collaboration between Aberdeenshire Active Schools (Shona Park), Deeside Rugby Club and parents.

It was reported that the e-mail data base has now been implemented. Sarah reported back from the Aberdeenshire Parent Forum Chairpersons' meeting she had attended. The notes from Bob Jones, NFPS, Aberdeenshire Representative, about this meeting were circulated.

The success of the raffle and tombola at the Christmas Fayre was agreed. Parents, staff and pupils were thanked for their contributions.

Lorraine to follow up staff and pupil ideas for fundraising.

Sarah confirmed she had completed the Aberdeenshire Parent Forum Questionnaire on behalf of AAPC.

INPUT FROM ABERDEENSHIRE PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT OFFICER (Donna Wilson)

Donna introduced herself and her new role assisting Aberdeenshire Council in meeting their parental engagement responsibilities. This is part of the ongoing consultation between Aberdeenshire Council and parents.

Donna reported that Aberdeenshire Council are aiming to improve their work with and for parents in education, social services and health matters. They are consulting to identify challenges then work together to find solutions. They wish to connect through our Parent Council Chair (Sarah) to make a difference.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

- Sarah requested parents' views on renewing the AAPC subscription to Aboyne Twinning Association. Benefits include liaison about student visits to France and the donation to School of an Annual Pupil Award. It was agreed to renew the subscription for another year at a cost of £10.

TREASURERS REPORT

Fundraising events raised:

Parent Evening Refreshments £20.50

Christmas Fayre £430.89

Christmas Concert Raffle £89.80

The AAPC account balance at present sits at £1,499.

A donation of £1,200 was agreed and handed over to the school.

HEAD TEACHER REPORT

1. ATTAINMENT

Authority attainment review was held on 30th November 2016. This was a positive meeting with the school showing improved performance in many areas. Barry Drennan will summarise our presentation for you. A whole school overview of pupil performance is helping us to monitor and track pupil progress more efficiently with early interventions being key.

2. CURRICULUM

Partnership links continue to flourish. Updates have been made to the school website to provide further information.

Hospitality skills for work pupils planned, catered for and served at the recent Christmas Fayre. They are also hosting a Burns Lunch for all staff on 26th January. Further skills for work courses are being planned for next session to complement academic courses.

A revised subject choice booklet is being developed by Michael Foy with input from ARCADION and others. Parent Council views on the new format would be appreciated.

Our senior phase curriculum evening will take place on 19th January from 7-9pm. We welcome suggestions on promoting this event and also on what information/activities parents would find particularly helpful for us to include on the night.

3. COMMUNICATION

Group call is now functional and Dr Holden would be happy to demonstrate this to parents at a future meeting. The school newsletter was published at the end of term and was sent by email for the first time using group call.

Show my Homework is receiving positive evaluations. This was discussed at the recent Pupil Council Meeting.

The school twitter site is gaining momentum and is a useful way of sharing news stories.

4. SUPPORT FOR PUPILS

Funding is being used to provide Dyslexia kits for all Faculties to help those in mainstream classes.

5. CPD FOR STAFF

In-house voluntary CPD sessions have been organised for staff on a Thursday evening to add to courses that are available in the Authority and from external sources. Tapestry sessions are going well although we recognise the need to do further consolidation work next session.

6. LEARNING AND TEACHING

Primary colleagues joined us on the November Inset to find out about quality questioning and to discuss numeracy progression from nursery to S3 – one of our cluster development priorities.

A huge number of activities continue to enrich the pupil experience and we are indebted to staff who are prepared to give up their own time to organise these.

7. CHRISTMAS EVENTS

The Christmas Fayre was a success and we would like to look at ways of increasing the footfall. Many thanks to our Parent Council for their hard work on the day.

The Christmas Concert was a sell out with a matinee performance also being piloted.

It was great to see the majority of pupils participating in the Christmas Ceilidh on the last afternoon. This tradition is such an important one and is hugely enjoyed by all.

Staffing

- In the English department, there remain staff vacancies. However, an acceptable level of cover has been found utilising the existing English staff and regular supply teachers combined with existing Drama staff. Longer term it is envisaged that the recruitment process for additional English staff will resume in the summer term when there is normally a larger field of candidates including probationers.
- The Technical Department are down a member of staff. The post has been advertised three times but no applications have been received.
- In the Maths department vacancies are being covered by long term supply staff.

OVERVIEW OF ATTAINMENT

Barry Drennan gave an overview of the attainment data reviewed with the Education Authority in November. Targets for pupil attainment are due to be set in March. It was agreed that a regular AAPC agenda slot will be given to bring in different staff to update the Parent Council on school developments.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraisers this year are:

- Summer Concert
- Parent evening refreshments.

Next S2 on Tuesday 17th January, Sarah agreed to set up, other parents requested to take over during evening.

Lorraine also offered help from senior prefects which was accepted.

AOB

- A request to keep dates for Academy and Primary Christmas concerts separate was discussed. Lorraine explained that this year the concert was moved to ensure the involvement of visiting music specialists. Solutions to this were sought. (action LS)
- Discussion took place with respect to the allocation of parent evening consultation appointments. At present pupils make appointments with staff on a first come first served basis via a paper form. However, there are not sufficient slots for every pupils' parent to be allocated an appointment. This is of particular concern in the areas of English, Maths and Health and Well-being.

Lorraine explained that interim paper reports compensated for this and that large class sizes made it difficult to allocate time slots for all parents to meet staff within the teachers working time agreement. Parents unable to arrange an appointment for parents evening were advised to gain feedback by phone from their child's guidance teacher.

Lorraine agreed to discuss ways to improve system with staff and research how other schools deal with this issue. (action LS)

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 15th March 2017 @ 7pm

VENUE: KINCARDINE O'NEIL PRIMARY SCHOOL