

Aboyne Academy Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting - Wednesday 26th October 2016

Attendees

Office Bearers	Parent Council Members
Sarah Leahy (Chair)	Sheila McMurtrie
Lynn Murphy (Secretary – joint role)	
Gill Ewart-Bannister (Secretary – joint role)	
Julie Mitchell-Mehta (Treasurer)	
Lorraine Scott (Head Teacher)	
Laura Larkworthy (Teacher Representative)	

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Karen Birnie, Cllr. Katrina Farquhar, Cllr. Geva Blackett, Joanne Croll and Andrea Geddes.

PC MEMBERSHIP

Sarah asked that Cath Thompson, from the Aboyne Academy Parent Forum, be proposed as an Ordinary Member of AAPC. This was seconded by Sheila McMurtrie.

AAPC's Constitution allows for 2 Teacher's to be co-opted onto the PC. However, as it is often difficult for the teaching staff to attend meetings Sarah asked for approval to allow 3 Teacher Representatives for the 2016/2017 Session. This was welcomed and agreed and Michael McCann, PT of Science was co-opted to the Parent Council as a third Teacher Representative.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (Tuesday 26th April 2016)

From previous discussions, it was asked whether the plan to upgrade the third set of toilets (the block which were possibly in the worst overall condition) was still scheduled. Lorraine confirmed that she believed this was the understanding under a previously made commitment by Aberdeenshire Council prior to her coming into post. She has also requested replacement of the carpet in the maths corridor.

It was agreed that the school now include a note on UCAS forms to say that Aboyne only do 6 subjects in fourth year.

Sarah confirmed she had completed the Seatbelt on Buses Consultation on behalf of AAPC.

Lorraine to follow up with Shona Park from “Active Schools” about the possibility of after school rugby for S1 and S2 pupils.

The minutes were approved.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

- Sarah reported that the Open Day (for parents of new S1 pupils) and the Careers Fair held last term were very successful and provided an opportunity for raising the profile of AAPC. Both were very useful events, receiving great feedback from parents, pupils and members of the wider community. Sarah thanked PC members who were able to attend and help at the events.
- Sarah reported that implementation of an AAPC email database, allowing AAPC to contact the Aboyne Academy Parent Forum, was proving problematic. However Sarah has had discussions with Jonathon Holden and the school office and the school will be trialling a new system in November to contact parents by email. Once this has been set up the school will be able to send emails on AAPC’s behalf. Following discussion it was suggested that, in the future, the database could be adjusted to allow email contact with individual year groups which would facilitate a more targeted dissemination of information.
- Sarah reported that she would attend the meeting of Parent Council Chairs and Aberdeenshire Officers on 27th October in Inverurie. The agenda is;
 - *GIRFEC*
 - *Programme for Government*
 - *Aberdeenshire Priorities*

TREASURERS REPORT

Julie reported that the AAPC account balance at present sits at £474.75.

HEAD TEACHER REPORT

1. Developing the Young Workforce

An extremely successful Careers Fair was hosted at the Academy on Thursday 22nd September 2016. The focus was on allowing our young people to engage with a variety of different local employers and to hear about the career pathways of former pupils of the school.

2. Transition

a) Mr Drennan and Mrs Scott visited all the local primary schools last term with a view to ensuring that our current transition programme meets the needs of all our pupils and also to help create stronger links between the two sectors.

b) An Open afternoon for S1 parents was held on 21st September 2016. Parents had the opportunity to visit classes working in at least 4 or 5 different curricular areas. They also completed an evaluation on the current transition process, had an interactive session with SMH and learned about the new Aiming Higher course for S1 pupils. Feedback from the event was very positive.

3. Staffing

Interviews to recruit a Faculty head of Art, Design and Technology were held on October 25th. To date we have two English vacancies and a Drama/Music vacancy to fill.

Mrs Law will shortly go off on maternity leave and will be replaced by Ms Moodie. Mrs Elrick has moved to Inverurie Academy. Ms Robertson has taken a 5 year career break following the birth of her son.

4. Attainment

Attainment reviews were held with all Faculties during the last two weeks of term. Preparation for the main Authority attainment review is underway. This will take place on November 30th 2016. The presentation will be shared with the parent council on the first meeting following the review.

FUNDRAISING

Two main fundraisers this term are:

- Christmas Fair – Saturday 3rd December. AAPC will run their traditional stall raffling hampers and helping pupils who will run the chocolate tombola. AAPC confirmed that they would also be delighted to sell a selection of Christmas cards which have been designed by Aboyne Academy pupils.
- Christmas Concert – Tuesday 13th December – AAPC will organise raffle

As in previous years it was asked that the school put out a request to Aboyne Academy pupils and parents for donations for the preparation of Christmas hampers (**Action LM**), the chocolate tombola and raffle prizes. Lorraine confirmed she would do this in an upcoming communication to parents and follow up two weeks before the first event with a text message to the Parent Forum (**Action LS**)

There is also an S1 Parents evening on 28th November. In line with the aim to raise the AAPC profile across the parent Forum, AAPC will manage a stall providing refreshments, for donations. It was suggested that this could be publicised ahead of time in any literature which is sent out to parents and on the night with the stall clearly marked on the location plan (**Action LS & AAPC**)

Following discussion on possible fundraising events for the spring and summer terms, Lorraine suggested that it might be a good idea to ask the staff and pupil councils for their thoughts. This was welcomed by AAPC (**Action LS**)

AAPC MEETING DATES and Locations for remainder of 16/17 session

Following discussion, in line with AAPC's aim to contact the wider Parent Forum and facilitate greater opportunity for participation, AAPC will hold its meetings at different venues, on varying weekdays, in the feeder primary schools during the year. The preliminary schedule is as follows:

- 10/1/17 Tuesday – Lumphanan Primary School
- 15/3/17 Wednesday – Kincardine O'Neil Primary School
- Thursday in May – TBA
- 5/9/17 AGM – Aboyne Academy

ABERDEENSHIRE PARENT FORUM

In response to an email request from Bob Jones, NFPS, Aberdeenshire Representative, there was discussion around the proposal for an "Aberdeenshire Parent Council" which would include all 17 academies and their feeder primary schools. The general feeling was that there would be limited benefit in progressing this initiative at this time. This is because the current structure should already allow, for AAPC, a discussion forum which is perhaps less complex and better targeted. Sarah will feedback to Bob Jones. **(Action SL)**.

PARENTAL SURVEY REQUEST – AAPC SUBMISSION

Parents and carers in the school have all been emailed and asked to complete a questionnaire about parental involvement in the school. In addition parent councils have also been asked to complete a similar submission. AAPC parent reps agreed to take time after the meeting to complete the questionnaire. Sarah collated the AAPC response and will complete online. **(Action SL)**

AOB

- In light of the recent publicity in the press surrounding the Scottish government's decision to reduce the assessment burden associated with the new CfE qualifications, it was asked what are the direct impacts, if any, on Aboyne Academy. Lorraine reported that early indications are that the changes, to be made by the SQA, will come in to effect in the next academic session (2017/2018) and would start with the N5 qualification. The Higher and Advanced Higher subjects would be addressed in subsequent years, so essentially a three year rolling program. There is some concern that SQA "tutorials" to disseminate the changes will be centred on Glasgow and Edinburgh, which risks making the process overly time consuming and expensive for those LEA's located further north.

- Discussion took place with respect to increasing Parental Engagement/Involvement and Lorraine shared some points from the Aberdeenshire Council Parental Involvement task group. It was recognised that this is an ongoing issue and one which Aboyne Academy and AAPC will continue to prioritise.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 10th January 2017 @ 7pm

VENUE

LUMPHANAN PRIMARY SCHOOL