

Aboyne Academy Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting- Thursday 18th January 2018

Tarland Primary School

Attendees

Office Bearers	Parent Council Members
Sarah Leahy (Chair)	Sheila McMurtrie
Andrea Geddes (Vice Chair)	Gill Ewart-Bannister
Lynn Murphy (Secretary)	Gail MacTaggart
Julie Mitchell-Mehta (Treasurer)	Elaine Starritt
	Natasha Pawlukiewicz
Lorraine Scott (Head Teacher)	
Jane Summers (Teacher Representative)	

Other attendees:

Leanne Miller (teacher), Gareth Webb (teacher), Cllr Paul Gibb, Sheila Reynolds

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Geva Blackett, Michael McCann (Teacher Representative) and Veena Fernandez.

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (Wednesday 1st November 2017)

Arising from previous minutes:

Following communication between AAPC, Councillors and E&CS management, an announcement on the Aboyne Campus Learning Plaza will be made in the near future. The service has also developed proposals which address the security issues faced within the community campus. A further meeting has yet to be arranged with regard to pupil support concerns.

The minutes were approved.

AAPC would like to welcome Jane Summers in her capacity as one of our Teacher Representatives

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

Sarah updated AAPC with the news that Maria Walker (Director of E&CS) will be retiring towards the end of this academic year.

Sarah received an email from Aberdeenshire Council informing AAPC of a planned visit and formal meeting of the Scottish Parliament's Education and Skills Committee to the Peterhead area of the authority on 29th January 2018. It is understood that the proposal for the Scottish Government's new education strategy will be discussed. It was also communicated that the consultation on this proposal is open until the end of January 2018. Anyone who wishes to attend the meeting may do so. Sarah will email AAPC with the link which contains all relevant registration and location details. **Action - Sarah**

Sarah has also received an email inviting parents to attend a couple of SCILL events. "Study Stress, Work Placement Unit and Maths Workshops" for pupils with additional support needs. Sarah will email AAPC members with the relevant links. **Action - Sarah**

Aboyne Twinning Association membership renewal fee of £10 is now due. AAPC confirmed that they support renewal and Julia Meta-Mitchell (AAPC Treasurer) will process payment. **Action - Julie**

2. TREASURERS REPORT

Following AAPC fundraising at the Christmas Fayre and Christmas Concert the AAPC account balance now stand now at £1356. It was agreed by AAPC that £1000 will be transferred to Aboyne Academy. Julie will process the cheque this evening. **Action - Julie**

3. HEAD TEACHER REPORT

1. Attainment Review – copy sent to members. Work on curriculum pathways to be done to help improve attainment. Concerns remain about the value of S6 for several pupils in the Academy.
2. Staffing Update
RME temporary appointment made.
New Guidance teacher post and impact on House System discussed.
Music (0.4) and Maths (1.0) posts remain vacant. Interview for the Maths post has been arranged for Tuesday 23rd January.
3. Building Works – Learning Plaza Update provided.
4. SPTC Training session for HTs – leaflets and information sheets collected and available for reading if required.
5. Prelim Timetable – mainly practical subject exams that have been scheduled for the day after the mid-term break and INSETS.
6. ICT update – 3 sets of 20 Chrome books have been purchased for distribution. Areas to be determined. 20 Apple iPads for Music and a total of 5 Apple TVs to be distributed according to teacher expertise/interest.
Other new resources include:-
 - Pottery wheel
 - New table tennis tables
 - Listening resources for Modern Languages and much more!

7. Pupil and support staff evaluations have taken place using survey monkey and the results have been collated and are available for your interest.
8. Update on the new positive behaviour working group who will be keen to get the views of parents. Parents' views also welcome on curriculum, wellbeing and reporting groups.
9. AAPC views on running an Iceland trip for the first time discussed.

4. ATTAINMENT/IMPROVEMENT/DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

AAPC was given an update by Leanne Miller (new PT for Modern Languages) on how the Language Department has been developing at Aboyne Academy over the last 18 months. This has included re-defining the S1-S3 Curriculum and the acquisition of updated resources and text books. Leanne also shared some of the most recent examination successes and pupil take-up of the courses on offer to the Senior Phase. Language assistants have been working with students offering support in both Spanish and French, pupils have taken part in a national spelling competition on the European Day of Languages and it is hoped that in the future some links with the business community can be developed. It is clear that there is a growing "buzz" and enthusiasm for the study of modern languages within the academy and Leanne stated her commitment to ensuring that this happens from S1. AAPC members expressed their appreciation for the great work Leanne and her team are doing at Aboyne Academy.

5. DATE OF SENIOR BALL

Lorraine confirmed that the official date for the Senior Ball is 5th June 2018 and apologised for any confusion which has been caused. The school were thanked for rearranging the ball to be after all SQA exams this year.

6. FUNDRAISING

The Christmas Fayre and Aboyne Academy Christmas Concert were very successful and, in terms of fundraising, have allowed AAPC to donate £1000 to Aboyne Academy.

Andrea Geddes proposed the fundraising idea of an "AAPC Afternoon Tea" to be held in the summer term. This suggestion was received with great enthusiasm and a smaller working group will meet to discuss and progress. **Action – Sarah & Andrea**

7. AOB

- A recent request from the school to the parent forum (emailed to Parent Forum on 16th January 2018) asking for parental involvement on the areas of curriculum, wellbeing, positive behaviour and reporting was discussed. Within the area of wellbeing, where the school is currently developing an expanded policy, the subject of how Aboyne Academy tackles the issue of

examination/testing stress was raised. Lorraine said that Aiming high Initiative, which targets S1 and S2 students, covered areas such as study techniques, preparation and resilience. It is the hope that the Wellbeing Policy, being developed with input from parents, staff and pupils will address concerns. **Action – Lorraine Scott**

- It was noted that the Prefect Interview are scheduled for 28-29th May which is still during the main SQA examination period. AAPC asked that the school revisit the timing in line with suggestions which were made by AAPC in 2017. **Action – Lorraine Scott**
- Prelim examination timing – whilst the upcoming prelim timing mainly addresses the previously expressed AAPC concern that the mid-term holiday should be a break for the students involved in SQA examinations, it was noted that there are still theory examinations (e.g music and PE) which are scheduled for after the mid-term break. AAPC asked that this be revisited for the 2018/19 academic session as it was felt important for pupil wellbeing that, wherever possible, a complete break from academic study should be given to all students at this point in the academic year. **Action – Lorraine Scott**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 19th March 2018, 7pm, Finzean Primary