

Aboyne Academy Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting- Thursday 24th May 2018

(NB: meeting re-scheduled from 15th May 2018)

Aboyne Academy

Attendees:

Office Bearers	Parent Council Members
Sarah Leahy (Chair)	Gill Ewart-Bannister
Lynn Murphy (Secretary)	Gail MacTaggart
Julie Mitchell-Mehta (Treasurer)	Natasha Pawlukiewicz
Lorraine Scott (Head Teacher)	

Other attendees:

Amanda Phillipson (Teacher), Cllr Paul Gibb

Apologies

Apologies were received from Andrea Geddes (Vice Chair), Michael McCann (Teacher Representative), Jane Summers (Teacher Representative), Cllr Geva Blackett, Veena Fernandez, Sheila McMurtrie, Elaine Starritt, Catriona Houston

1. Minutes of Last Meeting (Monday 19th March 2018)

Arising from previous minutes:

Pupils signing out of school – Lorraine reported that SLT had reviewed the issue and determined that the current policy must remain as it satisfies a legal requirement. It was requested that this be explained to pupils so they understand why they can only sign out themselves at lunch time. **Action: SLT**

Prelims and study leave – issue on hold for further discussion.

Timing of S4/5/6 Parents Evening – this has been reviewed and will be adjusted next year

The minutes were approved.

2. Chairpersons Report

Sarah reported that she and Andrea had attended the PC Chairs meeting at Kemnay Academy on Tuesday 17th May 2018 - the minutes of this meeting are attached.

One issue that had been highlighted at this meeting was the question of the LEA's

commitment to support the S6 year at Aberdeenshire schools. It was stated that this was very much the case; S6 being an essential year for many pupils.

3. Treasurers Report

It was noted the current AAPC bank balance remains at £346.38.

4. Head Teacher Report

Not available at this time

5. Attainment / Improvement / Development

AAPC was given an update by Amanda Phillipson on how the Support For Learning (SFL) Department has been developing at Aboyne Academy over her first year as Head of Faculty and her vision for the future. Amongst other initiatives she updated AAPC on the Paired Reading Project which is showing extremely positive results with respect to literacy improvements and hopes to address similar issues with respect to numeracy in the coming academic year. Amanda also discussed challenges with respect to staffing levels within her department and how best to support the wider academy. Looking forwards to the coming year Amanda is also keen to continue with and further improve the transition process for pupils from the cluster Primary Schools as they enter the Aboyne Academy. AAPC members expressed their thanks for the SFL overview and for the great work Amanda and her team are doing at Aboyne Academy.

6. Aboyne Academy Anti-bullying Policy

The draft up-date on the Aboyne Academy Anti-bullying Policy had been circulated to AAPC members prior to this meeting for their comment. Thoughts and wider Parent Forum comments were discussed. It was agreed that Sarah would collate all comments and feed back to the SLT. **Action – Sarah/SLT**

7. Aboyne Academy Building

Discussion about the ongoing plans for building improvements took place. Lorraine updated AAPC with respect to the new Learning Plaza and it is hoped that construction will start during the summer holidays.

8. Fundraising – Afternoon Tea & Summer Concert

The Afternoon Tea fundraiser had been booked for Saturday 9th June in the MacRobert Hall, Tarland. However, due to slow/low ticket sales and a large number of AAPC already committed to other events, it was decided to postpone this event and review in the Autumn term.

It was agreed that AAPC will run the raffle at the upcoming Summer Concert - **Action – all**

9. **AOB**

- Discussion took place around a suggested “Checklist for New S1 Parents”. The suggestion was for this “one page” document/brief which could be referred to as a “quick look” guide for new parents and pupils giving “tops tips and handy hints”, highlighting important events and things to look out for during the school year. It would complement and form part of the existing Aboyne Academy Admissions Pack, and could be easily presented and possibly distributed at the new P7/S1 Parents Transition Evening. **Action – SLT**
- Feedback was given from some parents that the new format S3 Work Experience week was working well. Lorraine commented that Aboyne Academy hope to further embrace the concept of S4,5&6 pupils taking relevant, targeted work experience throughout the upcoming academic year.
- AAPC feedback that some pupils on study leave had been unable to contact their teachers just prior to some of the recent SQA examinations. As many teachers are off campus at this time, as they are involved in the S1-S3 Activity Week, SQA Marking Activity or other training events, AAPC suggested that a calendar of latest available contact dates be given to pupils just prior to commencement of study leave to promote effective planning during revision time. **Action – SLT**
- A number of parents had contacted AAPC members during recent weeks asking about the procedure for assessment of additional support needs for pupils during the Prelims and SQA examinations. A wide ranging discussion took place and Amanda Phillipson was able to provide clarity to the process which is in place at Aboyne Academy. It was suggested that this be summarised for parents and pupils and placed on the school website. **Action – SLT**

Date of Next Meeting: AAPC AGM, Tuesday 11th September 2018, 7pm, Aboyne Academy