

Aboyne Academy Parent Council
Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday 19 March 2019
Aboyne Academy

Attendees:

Office Bearers	Parent Council Members
Rob Brooker (Chair)	Lynn Murphy
Julie Mitchell-Mehta (Treasurer)	Gail MacTaggart
	Charles Dunbar
Lorraine Scott (Head Teacher)	Ashley Easton
	Jane Summers

Apologies

Apologies were received from Sarah Leahy, Veena Fernandez, Suzanne Sant Angelo, Natasha Pawlukiewicz, Sheila McMurtrie and Paul Gibb.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting (14 January 2019)

Matters arising from previous minutes:

Pupil council were to suggest ways to spend funds raised. Pupil and staff would like decent sports team travelling kit for away matches.

The minutes were approved.

2. Chairpersons Report

Rob attended a Parent Council Chairs' meeting in January. Key items were:

- Empowering schools and local communities
- Buildings (primary schools are current focus)
- Parental involvement and engagement strategy

There was some clarity on the Parent Council constitution guidance.

Members are hoping to attend some parent council training sessions.

Parent Council will provide input into local area plan regarding the fact that increases in new houses will impact academy numbers. **Action: Rob**

Lanyard system for access to gym has been implemented and visitors without a lanyard can be challenged.

Pressure points in corridors will be highlighted to local council as will information about the poor condition of the drama room, once further information is received. **Action: Rob**

Parent Council healthcheck has been undertaken. We do not have a child protection policy but it is not required as we do not go into classes. However, PC members need to understand when PVG checks are required and this will be explained to new PC members each year. GDPR consent for processing personal data will also be gathered at AGM. **Action: Natasha**

3. Treasurers Report

- Rob is now a signatory on the bank account.
- 2 deposits of £478.50 have now been received from the council.
- Bank balance is currently £1157.36.
- Cheque for £800 given to the school to fund the sports kit requested by pupils and staff.

4. Head Teacher Report

- New drama teacher and new modern languages teacher starting in August. New RMPS teacher and new business studies teacher in April.
- Art teacher going on maternity leave in summer and a temporary replacement will be sought. The head of the music department is leaving which is a big loss to the school.
- S2 enjoyed growth mindset training.
- Sports day is on 28 June.
- Sponsored walk will be in September 2019.
- Leavers ceremony 24 April and Awards ceremony 25 June. Speakers have been booked for both events.
- The emergency evacuation which took place in January was caused by a hydrogen sulphide leak from a cleaning machine battery in an unventilated cupboard. On arrival the fire service implemented a full evacuation. Procedures have been updated to put pupils in bus groups immediately to make future evacuations faster. Pupils will also be told to take their coats and bags outside if they are with them when the alarm is raised. The church has been made available for vulnerable pupils.
- The local authority budget for 2019/20 includes reductions to ASL and PSA staff and one fewer teacher per school. Cutbacks also affect other areas including deep cleaning.

5. Pupil Council Report

The pupil council report will be circulated. The pupil council will be asked to record a short video for the next meeting rather than a written report. **Action: SLT**

6. School Improvement Plan

Group discussions were held to provide input into three key areas of the plan:

- Gathering the views of parents and how to reach all parents
- Commentary on survey results from parents
- Current school priorities

7. Social Media

Twitter account set up and being used. Facebook Groups need to be publicised. Rob will send links to both in his next message to parents. **Action: Julie, Rob**

8. AAPC Constitution

Revisions to the constitution were sent to the parent forum. Useful feedback was received and has been taken on board in the final version which will now be sent to the council. **Action: Rob**

9. Road Crossing

An application for a new crossing to the west of the school has been turned down. The dangerous nature of the zebra crossing was raised, as cars don't always stop, and the entire pavement and crossing situation outside the school was agreed to be inadequate. It may be possible to change the

zebra crossing to a pelican crossing or move it to a safer location. **Action: Gail to be point of contact for ongoing discussions with Councillor Gibb.**

10. Twinning

There are a few places available on the Aboyne trip to Martignas this July. There may also be an opportunity for art, drama or music departments to take part in an international event in September. The Twinning Association would also be happy to support any initiative that involved Young People under the age of (say) 21 years old from doing something in the Bordeaux area of France - either as a group or individually. Details to be circulated to parents and staff and publicised on Facebook. **Action: Julie, SLT**

11. Fundraising

The preferred date for the plant sale is 25 May. The Eco Club will be involved and members have some ideas for the event. A separate planning meeting will be arranged. LS will publicise to the Rotary Club and ask for plant donations. **Action: Gail**

12. YPI

Rob will be part of the judging panel.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 13 May, Learning Plaza, Aboyne.
An informal meeting is planned for the end of June.