

Aboyne Academy Parent Council
Minutes of AGM – Tuesday 8th September 2020
online

Attendees:

Office Bearers	Parent Council Members	Parent Forum
Rob Brooker (Chair)		John Mellis
Sarah Leahy (Vice-Chair)	Lorraine Chesney	Jane Douglas
Julie Mitchell-Mehta (Treasurer)	Charles Dunbar	Jenna Storey
Natasha Pawlukiewicz (Secretary)	Mo Cormack	Shauna Wright
		Claire Drewitt
Lorraine Scott (Head Teacher)		Mette Cormack
Michael Foy (Head Teacher)		
Ashley Easton (Guidance Teacher)		
Barry Drennan		
Cllr Paul Gibb		

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Jane Summers, Susan Nicoll, Rosemary Bruce, and Pete Barker

2. Minutes of Last AGM (10 September 2019)

The minutes were approved.

3. Chairpersons Report

It was a busy year until Covid. Support provided included managing the change in bus contract, fundraising at the Xmas fair and Xmas concert, and planning for a plant sale. The PC was also involved in road safety, support to the school's bullying policy, and suggestions as to how the school can manage the pupils' mental health at exam time.

During Covid the PC has helped the school keep in touch with the parent forum whilst the school was shut, and also supported the school as it returned in August.

Fundraising remains on the back burner for now.

What has worked well is the Facebook page getting information out quickly especially re Covid. The school was very busy so the PC helped with emailing the parent forum. The PC has also shared more community support information as well via its Facebook page.

Now the focus is back to school related information and will continue to be used even more. The PC did remind parents that they should contact the school directly if they have any queries as the Facebook page is not a contact point for the school.

The open forum meeting held in late June was good. The PC also contributed to the process of appointing a new head teacher to share the role with Mrs Scott, who has now moved part-time.

Thanks to the patience of parent forum as the PC did its best to keep up with events. The school has had to adapt and we should recognise this.

4. Head Teacher Report

1. Focus has been on school reopening and school recovery. Much of the planning and preparation for this had to take place during the last week of the summer term and during the school holiday period to prepare staff and pupils for a safe return.

What is different?

- Wearing of masks in corridors and communal areas
- Staff distancing from each other and from pupils
- One-way system
- Staggered lunchtime
- Specified year group entrances
- Specified break and lunch time areas
- Practical subjects – some guidance still being received
- Use of PE changing rooms restricts activities and new PE guidance limits the number of activities allowed. However, some work still to be done in this Faculty.

Pupils have adapted to change, thanks to parents for their support.

2. Blended learning plan still exists if the incidence of the virus increases again meaning we have to change provision.
3. Bring Your own Device (BYOD) – Michael Foy. Across all 17 academies in the shire. New safe wifi network available during school hours allowing pupils to access it with their own device. Lots to work out, next stage to put agreement out to parents and pupils plus FAQs. Draft information will be sent to Rob for circulation to PC to get feedback. Looking for high return rate before proceeding.

Work has been going on in the background to prepare for this. Need a high percentage of user agreement returns from both pupils and staff to enable us to proceed. This will enable staff and pupils to bring and utilise their own iPad, phone, laptop etc to school to aid learning.

Equity of access – how will school address that? 67 chrome books were accessed from government money which will be allocated to specific pupils and the school is applying for more. Nobody goes without access to a device. Might have IT distributed throughout different faculties.

SQA exam certification: certificates should have been sent out today if revision to a pupil's grades was made.

This year – need balanced approach, but still awaiting information about this year's courses. Mid Sept before we get final information from SQA.

4. Timetable
Implementing the timetable and ensuring all pupils can be in classes of the right size has proved tricky. NESCOL disappointingly are delivering online and the pupils had a bad experience when they tried to access the work this morning. Currently there are no live online classes being provided from them.

5. SMH – difficulties with data protection and we may be asked to stop using their service.

6. Staffing Update

New SDS officer – Christine Stidolph

Business and Computing – deficit of 2 staff. Removed most of the computing timetable as no luck in recruiting. On second advert for business studies teacher.

Leanne Miller returning 0.6 – recruited part-time ML teacher and Violeta Stefan remaining in post as FH 0.4

Jenny Law returns to Guidance post prior to October

Question: I understand that pupils are all following the new rules around Covid changes in the school i.e. mask wearing, but are there any measurements planned (surveys for students for example) to see how they are really feeling / coping with these changes?

Answer: Guidance team will make sure we will get pupils' views on how they're doing.

Barry Drennan added that he and Guidance are in regular discussion but we will look into doing a follow-up survey with our year groups during their regular contact with PSE classes. However,

interestingly, the feedback from most pupils is that they just want to get on with learning and teaching. Those who require follow-up or extra support are coming forwards. But we will continue to monitor closely.

Rob noted that parents can send questions to the PC via the Hotmail address and we can pass them on to school.

5. Treasurers Report

Two raffles during the Xmas fair and Xmas concert were held, and the PC received its annual grant from Aberdeenshire Council (as well as the previous year's which hadn't been paid).

£321.91 is in account.

Nicky Gibb has verified the accounts.

Fundraising is on hold.

6. Formation of new Parent Council

Rob, Sarah, Natasha, and Julie have agreed to stay on as Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. All years are covered by the members of the PC. Everyone present is happy to be on the PC.

S1	Rob Brooker
S2	Natasha Pawlukiewicz
S3	Rob Brooker
S4	Natasha Pawlukiewicz
S5	Julie Mitchell-Mehta
S6	Sarah Leahy
Others	8 spaces: Shauna Wright, Mo Cormack, Lorraine Chesney

Chair: Rob Brooker nominated by Shauna Wright, seconded by Julie Mitchell-Mehta.

Vice chair: Sarah Leahy, nominated by Julie Mitchell-Mehta, seconded by Charles Dunbar.

Secretary: Natasha Pawlukiewicz, nominated by Julie Mitchell-Mehta, seconded by Sarah Leahy.

Treasurer: Julie Mitchell-Mehta, nominated by Natasha Pawlukiewicz, second by Mo Cormack.

Rob happy to continue for another year. Julie willing to start the year but would like someone to step forward halfway through as bank change process takes a while. Not an onerous task. Shauna Wright might take on the role, and will liaise with Julie.

Action – Natasha to email those who couldn't make today's meeting to check they wish to remain on the PC.

7. Dates for AAPC meetings and other activities

Will send date round.

8. AOB

9th October 2 weeks' holidays.