

Aboyne Academy Parent Council
Minutes – Monday 25th April 2022

Attendees:

Office Bearers	Parent Council Members	Parent Forum
Aileen Longino (Chair)	Lorraine Chesney	Jon Entwistle
Susan Nicoll (Vice Chair)	Lynsey Harris	Heather Davidson
Natasha Pawlukiewicz (Secretary)	Charles Dunbar	Claire Smart
		Andrea Geddes
Michael Foy (Head Teacher)		Nicola Ewen
Debbie Mercer (DHT)		Jo Ellson
Nicola Topping	Cllr Blackett	
Sara Bell	Cllr Gibb	

1. Welcome and Apologies

Rob Brooker, Jenna Storey, Anita Visocchi, Claire Drewitt

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were approved.

3. Chairpersons Report

Buses and parking: Premier Coaches have approached Ken Howie at Deeside Activity Park to ask whether the coaches can be parked there during school hours not sure yet what has been agreed. If not, Premier should be encouraged to find an alternative option. Cllr Gibb to update.

4. Treasurers Report

£10,193.87 most of which is from the AVA grant. The process to sort out the banking is taking a long time; there should be three signatories on the account, still getting people removed.

The £800 handed over from PC last year not spent yet. Some of it will be used to stabilise the new outdoor tables. Leaver's ball – usually the PC subsidises staff tickets. Would like to do same again. There will be a minimum of 12 staff attending, maybe 20. Agreed.

5. Headteachers Report

Warm welcome back to our first face-to-face meeting since January 2020.

School feels like it is beginning to cautiously emerge from the pandemic. We have, you know, been able to relax mitigations on face coverings, distancing and one-way system in the last week. Sporting fixtures have resumed and planning is underway for a variety of events for this term including Activities days and P7 transition. We need to be mindful though that the pandemic is still with us, and pupils, parents and staff have varying levels of personal comfort with changing mitigations in these early days of more flexibility. We maintain a focus on ventilation, hand hygiene and management of symptoms.

Staffing Update

Congratulations to:

Richard Bruce (English), Jack Taylor (Geography) and Andrew Turner (Music) who were all successfully appointed at competitive interviews before Easter.

Welcome back to Mrs Leslie who returned from Maternity leave last week, and Mrs Gibb (nee Barron)

who rejoins us on 2nd May.

Fee Campbell (Drama) will be leaving us on Friday to join Portlethen Academy. Anne Gibb (PSA) is moving on to a role in Health and Social Care.

Staffing planning for next session - Home Economics remains an area where recruitment is challenging.

Post pandemic monitoring

We continue to monitor pupils closely following the events of the last 2 years.

Literacy - English have continued to work on S1 punctuation and paragraphing and technical accuracy in essay writing with seniors. The faculty are looking at whole school literacy approaches for next session.

Numeracy – S2/3 making good progress. Still working on basic numeracy calculations in S1.

Resilience planning

We have regular meetings to review our emergency response plan. We invited Aileen and Rob along on 22nd March to participate. Many thanks to them. Mock scenario.

Actions

- We are purchasing some more equipment to support emergency response
- Further planning to take place around Coe Cathedral as our back up location.
- Looking into possible posting of information in several key places.

We will be moving to one platform from change of timetable in June – Microsoft Teams. You cannot collate homework in the way SMH could, but we are working on an MS Teams calendar solution.

Parent's Evenings

Thanks to all parents who completed the feedback form for online Parents Evenings this year. Key findings:

- 73% of parents would like the option of having online appointments.
- Satisfaction rating (out of 5) overall was 3.93.
- Lots of comments that parents would like longer appointments. Appointment length is defined by a national agreement around the number of non-class contact hours a teacher works. Nuances of how this time is allocated annually is agreed in each school and is known as the "Working Time Agreement."
- Frustrations were around connection issues, teachers not being available and not being able to get an appointment with everyone.

We are discussing Parent Evening pattern for next year. Likely to be online.

Pupil reporting – plan to move to parentsportal and not issue paper copies.

Parental Engagement

This term will plan to offer informal events for parents on 8th/9th June. The Fife Arms will be supporting us with these events. Focus on S1 and S2 parents.

Update on Finance projects

CCTV Upgrade is complete – staff training still to take place

Conversion of old shower block into 2 new offices planned for Summer

New DoE equipment cupboard beside Guidance

New baguette bar in canteen should be operational in May.

Improvement in HE teaching space planned for Easter

5 new SmartTouch installs

13 picnic tables have arrived. Thank you! Will be installed over the next few weeks.

S2 pupils successful in funding to develop indoor seating and the pond area.

All staff being issued with corporate laptop and classroom docking stations upgraded for August.

Excelerate Programme Update

Last meeting I outlined what the Excelerate programme was all about. Recent developments:

1. Study visits – DM and JM visited XP School in Doncaster and MF/AE and HW visited the Academies of Nashville in Tennessee to look at innovative practice.
2. All the baseline data which has been gathered about where we are as a school has been collated and will be discussed with us on Thursday this week.
3. The visits and info gathering will influence our new Improvement Plan which we will develop over the course of this term. An opportunity to be really ambitious and develop pupils' workplace and leadership skills in a much stronger way as they progress through the school.
4. School Leaver Profile Event on Friday 20th May. Space for 2 parents.
5. Second staff visits to Doncaster in May and Nashville in March 2023.

Performance Review

We had our annual performance review with the Head of Education on 15th March which went well.

6. AOCB

Could the PC have a school walkabout? Maybe next term.

Photos: photographer booked.

Thanks to Cllr Gibb for all he has done (he is standing down at upcoming local elections).

New pedestrian crossing being installed in May.

7. Date of Next Meeting

After the summer