

## Aboyne Academy Parent Council AGM

### Minutes – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Office Bearers	Parent Council Members	Parent Forum
Aileen Longino (Chair)	Lorraine Chesney	Ishbel Nunn
Susan Nicoll (Vice Chair)	Jennifer Storey	Corri McHardy
Natasha Pawlukiewicz (Secretary)		
Rob Brooker (Treasurer)		
Michael Foy (Head Teacher)		Cllr Brown
Ashley Easton (DHT)		
Claire Drewitt		
Barry McCormick		
Nicola Topping		

#### 1) Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Kloppert, Charles Dunbar, Jo Ellson.

#### 2) Minutes and Actions from last AGM meeting

Most of the discussion was about Covid. Minutes approved and seconded by Jenna Storey and Rob Brooker.

Resilience Planning: It was agreed at last night's AGM that we should have a parent rep in each cluster village. This needs to be someone who has an analogue line and phone who will be contactable by the school and be able to put up a poster with information in their village in the event of power cuts etc. So far we have:

Tarland and Logie Coldstone - Aileen Longino

Torphins - Rob Brooker

Please get in touch if you can be the rep for your village.

#### 3) Chairperson's Report

Thank you to the Parent Council for your support and to everyone who has attended a Forum meeting over the last year. This year has been another year of change for the Parent Council as we came out of the pandemic and straight into power cuts. This was a very stressful time for all of us. We continue to have a great relationship with the SLT and the School and our Aboyne Academy Parent Forum fb page continues to grow with currently 318 members. It is a very useful tool getting relevant info out immediately.

With in person SQA exams for the first time in two years it has been a stressful time for pupils staff and parents. I think given the circumstances this has been navigated exceptionally well. The AAPC email inbox has been relatively quiet, which I hope is a good sign! It is wonderful to see school events and activities flourish again with our Christmas Fair coming up on 26<sup>th</sup> November, where AAPC will have a stall, and CIN happening on Wed 16<sup>th</sup> November just before the two in-service days on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. We had our first in person AAPC meeting in the Learning Plaza in April. It was great to see everyone, but it was agreed due the cost of fuel and dark nights that these should remain online for the foreseeable future.

AAPC have been involved with the recruitment of a new Deputy Head, the Excelerate Programme and the Youth & Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) with The Wood Foundation, attended meetings with Head of Education, solved the School bus parking problem at Aboyne Green and inputted into school crossing plans at Ladywood and secured £9550.52 from the CMHW Fund to secure 13 new benches and tables for our young people to relax at when weather permits. These tables sit 104 people. We have met with SLT on addressing resilience planning for emergencies eg power cuts. It has been decided that the best way forward as the weather starts to decline is to have a nominated parent in each of our cluster villages who has an analogue landline and phone. They will also be responsible for putting up a pre printed poster up that they could edit and keep up to date for their village on an agreed posting point ie village notice board. As we discovered last Nov/Dec we had no comms so this seems the only obvious way forward. We will need volunteer parents for this as soon as possible. I am happy to do Tarland and Logie Coldstone. Please email [aboyneacademypc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:aboyneacademypc@hotmail.co.uk) as soon as possible please.

Our role as a Parent Council is to fundraise and support the School wherever we can. The cost of living crisis which is affecting us all means for our fundraising will need to look at applying for more grants and not rely solely of traditional fundraising events as everyone feels the pinch.

#### **4) Head Teacher's Report**

Thanks, to Aileen, new and old AAPC members and everyone who has come along this evening. Your support is much appreciated.

Depute colleague will usually accompany me to AAPC meetings. This evening – Ashley Easton (DHT Covid Recovery/Skills.) Staff reps for this session - Barry McCormack, Nicola Topping, Claire Drewitt  
Few updates for you to start on what has been happening since Sept meeting. Then a focus on Improvement plan and emergency procedures to finish.

#### **Since September meeting**

Lots happening. Only been 4 school weeks since the last AAPC meeting but I really feel like we are shifting up a gear after covid and moving forwards on all fronts. Some really great commitment from staff at all levels.

In the last few weeks:

Finalised the whole school improvement plan – share details with you tonight.

#### **Pupils**

Finalised and publicised our extracurricular programme for this session – recently added football arrangements, junior debate club, coding club about to start with support of Cromar Futures Group and some Seniors are looking at some other fun options for the library too. Freshers Fair in games hall back on 12<sup>th</sup> October to promote to pupils.

First round of House Council meetings has taken place. I am meeting with senior prefects this week to discuss, and we will do some assemblies and feedback/communication about the outcomes later this term. I think that feeds back to a good point Rob made at last meeting that we need to get the message out there about what House Council does to everyone. You Said we Did board.

Return to year group assemblies – using Teams Homework / Standing up for what is right / Right to Food / School Improvement plan

### Staff

Big programme of teaching and learning priorities. All staff doing a “practitioner enquiry” – an individual project around pedagogy (the theory and study of teaching). They are all linked to our school priorities.

Attainment meetings with all principal teachers. We go through all the results down to individual pupil level and develop strategies for maintaining and improving attainment across the school. Follow up meetings in February. We have a tracking system which monitors all pupils and helps highlight where we need to intervene to support young people. Debbie Mercer leading on this.

### **Mobile Phone use in classrooms**

New traffic lighting approach will be launched in November.

### **SQA Attainment**

Reporting – had first 2 parents evenings – S2 and S4. S5/6 on Thursday. Will put out feedback survey to parents. You will recall the majority of parents wanted to remain online for this year. I think there are benefits particularly through winter weather, but I also think there are some times, particularly for some year groups where face to face might be preferable going forwards. I will look at the feedback that comes in and liaise with you about a decision for next session.

Talked last meeting about the move to Teams – parent video to support this coming out this week.

Debbie has also been planning for prelims and exams this session. We’ll do a parent/pupil SQA evening again in December. The feedback from this was very positive last year and it’s one where I think it does work online. Attendance was significant (over 100 for last 2 years) compared to where we used to hold this event in school.

Prelim timetable will be out later this term. Mrs Mercer trying to replicate the real pattern where possible and aims to issue an individual timetable to each pupil – this is a big piece of work. She will also be liaising with Mrs Phillipson in ASL to ensure pupils get the AAR they are entitled to and are parents/pupils are clear about this. Goes out to parents to review before the April exams.

### **Building work**

Conversion of old shower block into 2 new offices and DoE equipment cupboard created. Garage being converted to support use with bikes. 3 new bike shelters being installed soon. Huge project to replace heating control system starting next year. Will create more resilient system.

Finance meeting today – plans for any spend we have this session.

### **Pupil and Family Wellbeing**

Pond Project/Talkpod – work ongoing council architect.

Sensory Garden project – Mr Turley and pupil group have secured £2000 funding

Garage project has secured £1000

### **Cost of Living**

Finance remains a key thing in our approaches this session. Financial situation challenging for many families.

Strategy – financial support webpage/warm space/no uniform changes/reduction in fundraising/ticket prices/local activities programme/PT Pupil Development/breakfast in canteen/able to refer to the Marr Log Bank from Marr Area Partnership

### **Shine Survey**

We have signed up to participate in the Schools Health and Wellbeing Improvement Research Network (SHINE), led by Researchers at the University of Glasgow. SHINE aims to support schools in promoting and supporting the health and wellbeing of the whole school community. It is funded by the Medical Research Council (<https://gla.ac.uk/shine>).

During school time, pupils will be asked to complete a short online questionnaire. This will ask questions about their mental health and wellbeing such as how they feel day-to-day, life satisfaction and feelings about school and other areas of their life. The questionnaire should take around 30 minutes to complete and children will be asked to complete it on their own. Children will not be asked to give their name.

Once completed, all responses to the questionnaire will be sent to the research team at the University of Glasgow for processing. The research team will not know the names of any children who take part in the survey so your child's answers will never be linked to their name.

Each school will receive their own report with summary data on pupil mental health and wellbeing. This will combine the results from all the pupils who completed the survey in the school to provide an overview of wellbeing by age and gender groups. No individual pupils can be identified from the report. We will share results with both pupils and parents and to use the findings to help develop school policies and activities to support pupil wellbeing.

### **Staffing Update**

Pat Taylor appointed to PT ADT position. Will start in January. Nicola Topping/David Woods sharing the Faculty PT post on a temporary basis until she starts.

Phil Jarvie appointed to Facilities Manager post leading the janitorial and cleaning team.

### **Challenges**

Toilets – increase in vaping over Summer particularly amongst girls. Signs that it is beginning to settle down.

Action – ongoing daily SLT surveillance, letters home, parent meetings, exclusions.

Hospitality staffing – big plans here but recruitment issue. S3 class will keep going – Miss Easton/Catherine Cormack will support Mr Arthur with local employers contributing. S1/2 will move to an alternative for term 2 – cycling proficiency/first aid/swimming (covid gap areas)

### **Improvement Plan/ Excelerate Programme Update**

Summary available on school website shortly – 8 priorities

4 key projects.

**National discussion on Education** – letter with survey link from me 31/10/22. Deadline 5<sup>th</sup> December.

## **Emergency procedures**

Last term – updating and reviewing our procedures. Carrying out drills.

Winter weather info coming out to parents - Phone line removed.

Been working with local councillors – idea for key contacts in each village – AAPC to progress.

### **Queries:**

Uniform Bank: uniform and study guides swap. Is this going ahead? *Mr Foy to investigate.*

Children in Need costs: senior pupils being asked to contribute? *Usually asked to use stuff from home. £1 each maximum*

Council doing a lot of work around resilience: everyone needs to be individually resilient.

### **5) Treasurer's Report**

There was not much activity due to no fundraising. In August 2021 the balance was £1008. Income came to £9160, expenditure £868, leaving a balance of £10,168 as of August 2022. The accounts have been verified by Sol Taylor and are available if anyone wishes to see them.

There will be £600 left once the payment to the school for the benches is made.

The Parent Council can make a payment to the school in the new year if we fundraise during the Xmas fair.

The funds will be used for extra curricular trips: part of the school's cost of living strategy.

### **6) Formation of the new Parent Council**

Chair: Aileen Longino (nominated by Rob Brooker, seconded by Jenna Storey)

Deputy: Susan Nicoll (nominated by Aileen Longino, seconded by Rob Brooker)

Treasurer: Rob Brooker (nominated by Aileen Longino, seconded by Susan Nicoll)

Secretary: Natasha Pawlukiewicz (nominated by Aileen Longino, seconded by Rob Brooker)

Members: Charles Dunbar, Jo Ellson, Jenna Storey, Lorraine Chesney, Lynsey Harris, Corri McHardy. (nominated by Aileen Longino, seconded by Natasha Pawlukiewicz).

The reps for each year are as follows:

S1 Corri McHardy

S2 Susan Nicoll

S3 Rob Brooker

S4 Natasha Pawlukiewicz

S5 Jo Ellson

S6 Aileen Longino

### **7) Dates for next AAPC meeting**

In the new year.

### **8) AOB**

A93 public consultation. Contract awarded soon. By end of this week there will be an update on progress.

Bridgeview road: Aboyne Primary School is taking the lead on the road crossing.

East of Aboyne: new signs have been put in and resurfacing will be done to the road. Any queries please contact Cllr Brown.

The issue of bus safety will be addressed in the school assemblies.

DRAFT