

Aboyne Academy Parent Council

Minutes – Monday 15th May 2023

Attendees:

Office Bearers	Parent Council Members	Parent Forum
Aileen Longino (Chair)	Jo Ellson	Hayley Schofield
Rob Brooker (Treasurer)	Jenna Storey	Lorraine Wildblood
Natasha Pawlukiewicz (Secretary)		
Michael Foy (Head Teacher)		
Alex Priest (Depute Head)		
Claire Drewitt (Guidance)		
Barry McCormick (Science)		

1. Welcome and Apologies

Aileen introduced everyone to the Parent Council.
Apologies from Susan Nicoll and three elected members.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were approved.

3. Chairperson's Report

Fundraiser on Saturday 27th May 11-2 - Plant Sale, Uniform & Revision Aid Swap Shop. Will be a charge per plant. Table with uniform and study guides.

No charge but donations please.

Rotary doing BBQ, 3rd of takings to school, and ice cream from Aboyne Ices.

Need some helpers – maybe pupils could come and help out too, especially to direct. Will have banners. If wet, bbq outside but plant sale inside.

Need someone to do some signs. School has 6 road signs.

Hayley can help. Jo Ellson too.

Rob can drive round on Friday pm to pick up plants.

Cash only.

Chair duties and recruitment of New Chair for new academic session

If anyone is interested? Duties – support the school. Chair meets head and SLT regularly: recruit staff or represent school. Go to transition evenings and talk to parents. Meet head of education once a term. Manage email account, set up meetings etc. keep parent council page on school website updated.

Parent forum page on facebook used regularly with information from apprenticeships to school closures. High membership, good reach. Gives you really good insight into how the school works. It would suit someone who knows the school a little.

The PC is talked about a lot at SLT meetings.

Social media role could be shared amongst the committee.

New Committee Members required for new academic session

Aileen and Michael to put something on Facebook page to encourage people to think about the roles.

4. Headteacher's Report

Thanks to everyone who has come along this evening. Your support is much appreciated.

Huge thanks to Aileen who has been a very proactive and supportive chair for the last 2 years. The school has really appreciated your support and leadership of AAPC.

Staff reps this evening are Alex Priest (DHT) Claire Drewitt (Guidance) and Barry McCormick (Science). Busy time as always. Few updates from me then over to Alex to talk about one of our 4 school improvement priorities – CREW.

Lots happening as always. Key focus in the last few weeks – SQA exams, Forestry and Hospitality experiences for S2 and S3. Leavers ceremony, Future pathways event, YPI Final, Planning for Activities. P7 transition going well. I took the chance to promote AAPC at P7 meeting.

Lots of successes - Pupil Press, Run Balmoral, Nan Shephard writing Award, 2 of our pupils FA of the year.

Exams going well. You may have seen in the media that the SQA have announced that most of the current mitigations are to be lifted for this coming session.

Pupils

Second round of House Council meeting same week as last AAPC meeting. Important – they considered the future of our school values. Decision to change “Teamwork and Participation” to “Compassion.” This will be launched in August.

We also have decided to move away from our motto – believe, achieve, succeed. This was felt by pupils and staff to no longer feel right. We have decided to use the school badge without the motto going forwards. Our vision as a school will be defined by our 3 values and our School Leaver Profile. No impact on uniform.

Staffing

Ashley Easton – Maternity leave from 24th March. Rona Lindsay starts today. Ed Dow is covering Acting PT Maths role.

Dr John Cavanagh – Technical

Rachel Forsyth (Business)

Staff joining in August:

Paul Askew-Blain (Maths), Maria Garcia (Languages), Rachel Hine (English).

One of the current team is looking to add Computing. This will take 2 years.

Parents

Areas for development – parents’ evenings, homework
Change to the way we distribute info – now to both parental contacts.

Current challenges

Social Bots – My next letter will have a link to parent guide on our website.

Toilets and vaping – I have a letter to go out this week.

Litter – Prefects starting clean up each Friday. Aboyne Primary PC keen to work with us. Part of the issue is the crackdown in the toilets!

Recognising Achievement – RL will review this.

Upcoming events

S1-3 Activities days – week beginning Mon 22nd May

Senior Ball – Wed 31st May

Occasional holiday day - Mon 5th June

Summer Concert – Wed 21st June

Summer newsletter

Awards Ceremonies – last day of term (Friday 7th July)

Aboyne Academy: 50 years old

Planning for 2025! Volunteers please!

Summer concert – Wed 21st June

AAPC refreshments/raffle?

Improvement Priorities

Our 4 key improvement priorities remain the same going into 2023 2024.

Overview of CREW from Alex Priest (DHT)

This is new for S1s. Pupils wanted more welfare support and so CREW will be implemented (crew of a ship – everyone having equal responsibility). This will add to the welfare support we already have.

S1s 25 mins every morning – taking account of when they step on the bus to when they step off.

Crew of 14 with a leader (staff).

Check in after weekend.

Will do oracy based stuff. Ensuring everyone has to speak, equipment check, etc.

Each week will have a different theme. Relationship builder, community focus week,

This is a pilot, and only for S1s in order to get buy-in. P7 parents told – interest and positivity from them. At the P7 induction day, the P7s were placed in their crew ready for August.

There is no end goal in mind.

Question about S1 PE from last time:

Huge variety of taster sports in S1 PE – basketball, football, Tchuk Ball, volleyball, Shinty, dodgeball, handball, touch rugby, athletics, swimming, orienteering, badminton. Rotation – 3 weeks.

Haven't tended to focus on netball but can do this if pupil interest. Netball club (junior and senior) available too.

5. Treasurer's Report

£619.95 in balance. Paid school £700 after last meeting.

6. AOCB

Parentsportal is clunky and off-putting: *little that can be done as is a Scotland wide portal.*

Driver safety. Any sessions targeted at pupils?

Young Drivers Scheme delivered sessions to S5 and S6 over 2 days. This will run every year

Water safety talks will start next week

Mr Foy would prefer pupils not to drive to school.

Toilets – changes made so S1-3S have their own (Science), and S4-6s theirs (Maths). Walker building ones open to everyone. Pilot until summer.

Thanks to school and staff for their support.

7. Date of Next Meeting

TBC