

Aboyne Academy Parent Council
Minutes – Monday 20th March 2023

Attendees:

| Office Bearers | Parent Council Members | Parent Forum |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Aileen Longino (Chair) | Corri McHardy | Claire Smart |
| Susan Nicoll (Vice Chair) | Lynsey Harris | Anita Visocchi |
| Natasha Pawlukiewicz (Secretary) | Jennifer Storey | Heather Davidson |
| | Jo Ellson | |
| | Charles Dunbar | |
| Michael Foy (Head Teacher) | | |
| Claire Drewitt | | |
| Cllr Brown | | |

1. Welcome and Apologies

Aileen introduced everyone to the Parent Council.
Apologies from Rob Brooker and Cllr Blackett.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were approved.

3. Chairperson's Report

Fundraiser – chocolate tombola raised £264, thanks to those that came and helped out. Good to do something in person again.

Aileen involved in recruitment for DHT maternity cover. Learn about school from a different perspective.

Road crossing works underway at Ladywood. Ready for start of next term.

Spring Fundraiser- Uniform/Revision Aids Swap Shop: tie in with an event, possibly school leavers. Raffle prizes available. Second half of May. Plant sale? Can get donations. Refreshments? P7 parents coming Tuesday 25th April to meet HT – could be promoted then to new S1 parents.

Can we have a drop off at reception for uniform? – yes.

Outside refreshments? Flasks for tea/coffee.

BBQ? Involve Rotary?

Aileen to put dates together and ask for volunteers – Susan, Jo and Lynsey (and maybe Rob too)

Indoor space if needed? MF to talk to Aileen.

4. Headteacher's Report

Thanks, to Aileen, AAPC members and everyone who has come along this evening. Your support is much appreciated. Thanks for involvement in recent recruitment and Christmas Fair. Staff rep this evening is Claire Drewitt.

Lots of updates for you on what has been happening since the November meeting. Another period of disruption to school but hopefully we are over that now. We have held 3 parental engagement events online since last meeting – S3 maths evening, SQA evening and Subject Choice evening. Attendance at these continues to be positive with resources available after on the website.

Pupils

Second round of House Council meeting this week. I did some assemblies and feedback/communication about the outcomes of the term 2 meetings. You Said we Did board on order!

New school newspaper starting up.

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.

Learning Walks taking place last week – theme of classroom ethos and engagement.

Pupil LTA group have produced information on “feedback.” This has been shared with the Cluster schools.

Staffing

Ashley Easton – Maternity leave from 24th March. Rona Lindsay will cover Acting DHT role. Acting PT Maths interviews this Friday.

Nicola Topping, Teacher of Technical Studies, Debbie Brady, Teacher of HE, Rob Bryant, Janitor

New staff: Ryan Smith PT Pupil Development, Pavithra Karunasiri, PSA, John Lappin, Janitor, Leanne Miller, Teacher of ASL

Successful interview this morning re Technical teacher.

SQA Exams

Pupil prep well underway. Prelims went to plan. Individual timetables produced for the first time.

Still concerns about motivation outside school and deadlines.

Information about egsoil Easter revision sessions shared with parents.

Individual SQA Exam timetables out soon.

Building developments

Classroom furniture – money in reserve. Will be phased input.

S6 furniture tomorrow!

ADT lighting and ceilings.

Corridor painting, carpets, blinds

New computers in Engineering lab.

Commercial coffee machine installed into HE space.

Sensory Garden/Garage projects in progress

New mural in library corridor, memorial bench restored.

Grateful to Shell for recent donations.

Pond project – we will come back to this term – no capacity last term!

Annual Performance Review

Was on 8th March. Very positive.

Improvement Priorities

Overview of CREW - invite Alex Priest to next meeting

Change to school day

New S1s will have CREW classes, not form classes.

Excelerate Programme update

BCSO appointment – Catherine Cormack

3 staff just back from Nashville, 5 more going to Doncaster in May.

Current challenges

Winter weather – we will develop a policy for learning from home to make expectations clear for everyone.

Toilets and vaping

HE – due to teacher shortage we have to do things differently. Miss Easton, Catherine Cormack and Mr Arthur have put lots into keeping S3 class going – food hygiene, practical sessions from local business and chefs with support of Susan Stewart from BBA.

Challenging time across the northeast for recruiting teaching staff in some subjects – HE, Maths, Technical

Parent survey

Thank you for feedback. Lots of really positive things.

I am planning to publish a QA feedback document to all parents.

Areas for development – parents evenings, homework

Extra-curricular groups

Recent work from Miss Easton – 24 clubs. Great and great support from pupils and parents BUT:

- Only 20.6% of school participate.
- More equal spread of SIMD deciles needed.
- Also dominated by Aboyne pupils

How could we change this? I would value your thoughts:

Increase school day? Informally?

Clash with Active Schools? Included in those figures. Will talk to AS about how things could be improved.

Barriers – time constraints and transport.

Could we ask pupils?

Could netball be included in core PE to encourage girls to play in the league?

Used to have seasons for sport – could we do that again? Introduce them to more sport.

Upcoming events

Future Pathways - March 23rd in afternoon. Event for leavers who might be unsure of destination. Move away from traditional careers fairs. Hands on and active.

Sustrans Big Walk, Cycle and Scoot – Monday 27th March

Leavers Ceremony – theatre and HE Thursday 20th April. That will be last day for seniors. 9.30 – 11am.

Coronation day – Monday 8th May.

Aboyne Academy: 50 years old

Planning for 2025! Volunteers please!

Hayward review – please take time to respond.

5. Treasurer's Report

£1329.95 current balance. Give £700 to school asap.

6. AOCB

7. Date of Next Meeting

Early May

Aileen stepping down at the end of the academic year. Will need new chair.