

Aboyne Academy Parent Council
Minutes – Monday 26th September 2022

Attendees:

Office Bearers	Parent Council Members	Parent Forum
Aileen Longino (Chair)	Lorraine Chesney	Claire Drewitt
Susan Nicoll (Vice Chair)	Charles Dunbar	Julia Berry
Natasha Pawlukiewicz (Secretary)	Lynsey Harris	Alastair Brodie
Rob Brooker (Treasurer)		Mette Cormack
		Heather Davidson
Michael Foy (Head Teacher)		
Alexander Priest		
Barry McCormick		

1. Welcome and Apologies

Aileen introduced everyone to the Parent Council.
Apologies from Cllr Sarah Brown, Jo Ellson, Fiona Walmsley.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were approved.

3. Chairperson's Report

Aileen asked for new committee members to come forward. She mentioned that part of the Parent Council's role is to fundraise for the school: through AVA's Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund there are now outside benches for the pupils to make use of. The Parent Council usually has a stall at the Christmas Fair (which takes place on 26 November) so if anyone would like to be involved or has any ideas, please get in touch.

The AGM will take place on 7th November which will be followed by a short new committee meeting. The Parent Council is looking into setting up a uniform exchange for sweatshirts and study guides. Need to work with school as to how this will happen. Positive comments in meeting chat from parents.

4. Treasurer's Report

TSB online banking now set up to allow dual sign off for payments, which is a key part of if meeting the conditions for our liability insurance with Connect.

We have just over £10k in the bank, the bulk of which is funding for the picnic benches. This needs to be paid now to the school and we're working with Mr Holden to get this organised.

Rob has also been in touch with the Council to confirm our banking details remain unchanged ahead of the annual council funding payment.

5. Headteacher's Report

Thanks to Aileen and the AAPC members and thanks to everyone who has come along this evening. Your support is much appreciated.

Depute colleague will usually accompany me to AAPC meetings. This evening – Alex Priest (DHT Welfare.) Staff reps for this session - Barry McCormack, Nicola Topping, Claire Drewitt

Start of new session

Getting routines established at start of new year. Supporting S1 classes and pupils. Big focus on meeting needs – Alex has sharpened up our background data received from primaries as part of the transition process and has made some improvements to the way we share info with staff. We are investing staff meeting time tomorrow into looking at these as individual teachers and tweaking our

teaching approaches based on the info and on pupil progress in weeks 1-5.

Return to uniform and use of changing rooms. Support ongoing by SLT and Health faculty staff. House assemblies this week where I have been reinforcing some points relevant to this.

Staff - re-establishing focus on teaching and learning – reshape of our collegiate time – 8 new collaboration sessions – first 2 staff collaboration sessions (Oracy and Project Based Learning). New resources in school library to support staff professional development. Linked to Improvement Plan priorities.

What is different at the start of this new term?

Moved across to MS Teams as one platform. Homework – Aiden Lindsay will do assemblies in last week of term for pupils and release parent video to show how Teams Homework calendar works.

Getting pupils to engage with world of work – S2 harbour development trip, guest speakers (Police, Morag Speak, 8 GP's and medical students, Maths week, Army)

House Leadership Teams – now contain pupils from across the school. Taking much more active role in organising. Involvement in recent recruitment process, NHS meeting and attending SLT. Queen assemblies and House Week this week.

S6 all involved in volunteering. Ranges from litter picking, organising school events, paired reading, STEM events.

Conversion of old shower block into 2 new offices planned for October. New DoE equipment cupboard beside Guidance.

SQA Attainment

Really strong performance. Matched our 2019 pre pandemic statistics and N5 and Higher which were our best ever. Always caution looking at the stats in isolation. 1 pupil = 1% point.

Positive meetings with Head of Education and local Councillors to look at the data together.

Pupil and Family Wellbeing

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

Breakfast in canteen to start from after Oct hols. FSM pupil will receive this at no cost. Looking at other ways we can support families this winter. Discussions with Aberdeenshire voluntary Action, Live Life Aberdeenshire.

Pond project and Talkpod. Queens Jubilee funding. HorseBack, Rotary and Paper Girls from the Paper Shop in Aboyne.

Staffing Update

Liam Ball – leaving us – PT ADT job advertised.

Debbie Brady – not coming back after Maternity leave in HE so no HE teacher. Plan for recruitment.

Guidance

Dougie Kinnear – secondment to Banchory PT Science

Ellen Leslie – Moving to Guidance job closer to home.

3 appointments:

Emily Simpson – permanent PT Guidance will stay with Lochnagar

Katherine Kinloch – Acting post (23 months) and will take up Morven.

Ryan Smith – PT Pupil Development (supporting welfare team to develop alternative pathways and provision/alternatives to exclusion) Supporting our FSM/LAC/Attendance pupils.

Challenges

Toilets – increase in vaping over Summer particularly amongst girls.

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

Litter - House Leadership teams/Rotary/S6 pupils. Issues in St Thomas's churchyard. Working with them and CBO. Would ask for parents support in reinforcing that message please.

Hospitality staffing – huge plans here but recruitment issue. S3 class will keep going. S1/2 will move to an alternative for term 2. Looking at options. Linking to post pandemic monitoring.

Questions

- Please can you clarify the role of the pupil council as it is not clear, and it would help pupils to engage. *This is being picked up by the prefects. Next week they are electing pupil reps for the pupil council.*
- Staffing for hospitality – concerning about this gap – could local businesses come and support? *There is a plan for an attractive offer between now and Christmas. The school is not short of offers of people coming in. The hospitality days will begin again.*
- Communications to parents about university open days – please could you prompt us at the beginning of the academic year to book these. *The school can look into this and send a link to the UCAS website.*
- Is there a project to redevelop the pond? *It will be relandscaped by June and will involve local businesses. The school is also looking to develop an allotment space in front of where the nursery was, and is looking for local organisations to partner with.*

6. AOCB

7. Date of Next Meeting

The AGM will take place on Monday 7th November followed by a committee meeting. The next Parent Council meeting will take place on Monday 21st November.