



Airyhall School Parent Council



Meeting – 9th March 2021 Minutes

Chair: Mike and Ruth Crawford

Secretary: Eric Gilligan

Treasurer: Stuart Young

<i>Parent Council (PC) Members Present</i>	Mike Crawford (MC), Ruth Crawford (RC), Stuart Young (SY), Catherine Blackwood (CB), Kate McCafferty (KM), Yvonne Mulholland (YM), Kevin Smith (KS), Heidi Wong (HW) (attending via Teams)
<i>Staff Members Present</i>	Donna Polson, HT (DP); Emma Currie, DHT (EC); Leigh Houston, DHT (LH)
<i>Aberdeen City Councillors Present</i>	
<i>Apologies</i>	Victoria Valment, Eric Gilligan
<i>Minute-taker</i>	Mike Crawford (MC) (Co-chair)

1	Welcome	<p>The meeting was formally opened by MC at 6:38pm, who welcomed everybody to the meeting.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting on 26/1/21 (which had been approved by e-mail in advance by MC and Victoria Valment) were confirmed as approved. These will be submitted to LH to be uploaded to the school website.</p>	MC
2	Accounts	<p>SY confirmed that the PC funds stood at £1079.68. This year's grant funding from Aberdeen Council of £330 had been received, and this year's accounts were in already preparation.</p> <p>Accordingly funding is available if there are any suggestions to put forward at the next meeting.</p>	SY
3	Head Teacher's report and discussion	<p>DP gave a report addressing the following:-</p> <p>The focus in the last period was on the return to school for nursery to P3 and preparation for the remainder to return on Monday 15th March. All measures and preparations were in hand with all staff expected back in school from the 15th.</p> <p>Nursery numbers were reported as being up due to January new starts arriving.</p> <p>The school website is being moved across to a google site to make it more accessible. Feedback was requested from the Parent Forum on accessibility, and any additional information that could be useful to parents or carers.</p> <p>DP shared the Safer Schools App which will be made available to parents to support safety for children online and help make parents aware of any areas of concern circulating on online communities (e.g. by providing push notifications on emerging issues). This will be highlighted in the next school newsletter.</p>	DP

		<p>Material on the 'Cost of the School Day' was shared and further information will be shared on the next school newsletter to advise the Parent Forum of the support available to parents (covered further in a separate section below).</p> <p>In relation to uniform costs RC advised that an Airyhall uniform buy/ swap / sell group had been set up on Facebook and details were passed on to share on the school newsletter.</p> <p>Volunteers were requested for a meeting on Friday 19th March at 10:30am to discuss the school reporting calendar.</p> <p>For the return to school it was reported that voluntary asymptomatic testing for coronavirus is in place for all staff. Tests are 2x per week using the lateral flow test.</p>	
4	Pupil Groups Update	<p>LH reported on the activities of the 4 pupil groups:-</p> <p>Pupil Council The Pupil Council have organised their first Charity event this year for Red Nose Day. They will be holding competitions for design a red nose and share a joke. They are hosting paired Google Meets between classes to share a laugh and stay connected. They will also organising a Red Nose Hunt in the local community where photos of teachers wearing red noses will appear in various windows throughout the community. This will be up for the Easter holidays. They have also looked at the Pupil Participation Policy and added their ideas.</p> <p>Eco Group The Eco Group have started work on Eco Week. They have also looked at the three main topics: Litter, Waste minimisation and School Grounds. They have written to a local shop Refillosophy to make a partnership with them to promote the concept of reducing waste.</p> <p>Fairtrade Group They organised the Fairtrade Fortnight which pupils worked on online which was concerned with Climate Change.</p> <p>Rights Respecting The group met to create Google Meet Rules. They also looked at the Pupil Participation Policy.</p>	LH
5	Report from Parent Council forum meeting and discussion	<p>MC provided an update on the city-wide Parent Council forum meeting as follows:-</p> <p>Council updates</p> <p>School Staffing - Across the region there were no significant changes to staffing over the last period, with vacancies still at low levels. Probationer interviews will be progressing through March to address vacancies, and many probationers were electing to stay in the region.</p> <p>Reporting - Primary reports will be issued focussing on literacy, numeracy, and Health & Wellbeing. The reports will look different this year and will advise if the learner is on / behind / or ahead of track for national expectations & will also have scope to say where they are against their own expectations. This will look different from previous years but was felt to be more accessible and better for the change.</p>	MC

		<p>Parent / Teacher meetings - Guidance provided by the council to schools, but schools will have the final decision on what will be provided. For Airhall it was discussed that P4-7 meetings were ongoing and feedback was provided that the online, 10 minute meetings were being well received. The online format also helped both parents attend (including some from offshore), and without needing childcare. P1-3 meetings will be held later (w/c 15th and 22nd March).</p> <p>ASN (Additional Support Needs) & Outreach Updates</p> <p>An update was reported on the changes to the ASN and Outreach services provided in the region which will combine these under a single leadership structure.</p> <p>The next theme for the service as the changes are implemented will be to engage with parents & this may involve a Parent Council being formed for the ASN & Outreach service.</p> <p>There has been a freeze on requests for ASN & Outreach but with 2 posts due to be filled in mid-March it was reported that referrals will re-start at this point.</p>	
6	Cost of the school day	<p>The information from the guidance note was shared with a request to the Parent Council to consider ideas for the next meeting.</p> <p>Areas addressed included: -</p> <p>School uniform - policy set to allow generic clothing to meet the requirement to reduce cost. Also noted that a clothing grant is available. Also noted that a uniform buy / sell / swap site had recently been set up on Facebook and details were provided to share.</p> <p>Fundraising - guidelines shared on being considerate with fundraising (i.e. voluntary wherever possible, and low cost / no cost options provided)</p> <p>School trips - are arranged to ensure costs are as manageable as possible and are kept down by the PTA contribution.</p> <p>P7 residential - noted that if needed parents can apply for funding support</p> <p>School meals - free meals available. Other areas to consider were noted - e.g. "food pantries"</p> <p>School clubs - some are free through active schools, but where these are part of a business providing the service there is limited scope to manage costs.</p> <p>Home learning - success of chromebook loan during home learning noted. Advised that if needed the option would be provided to continue borrowing if needed for homework</p> <p>Equipment for school - currently provided by the school as pupils cannot bring in their own equipment due to covid measures.</p>	DP

		Other thoughts and suggestions were welcomed and will be discussed at the next meeting.	
7	AOB and Information about Future Meetings	Noted that for the PTA several P7 parents will be leaving and these included key office bearers. Engagement with parents will be needed to find replacement volunteers. The next Parent Council meeting was scheduled for 11th May 2021.	SY MC
8	Meeting Closed	MC closed the meeting – with thanks to all.	MC