



Airyhall School Parent Council



Meeting – 11 May 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), Victoria Oumarou (VO), Stuart Young (SY) Emma Davidson (ED), Eric Gilligan (EG), Catherine Blackwood (CB) Kate McCafferty (KM) Jacqueline Allan (JA), Ewan MacLeod (EM), 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>	N/A – apologies received from IY as below.
<i>Apologies</i>	Ian Yuill (IY), Yvonne Mulholland
<i>Minute-taker</i>	Eric Gilligan (EG) (Secretary)

1	Welcome	The meeting was opened by MC at 6:30pm, who welcomed everybody to the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting had been approved by e-mail and this was agreed by attendees.	MC
2	Accounts	SY had confirmed that the PC funds stood at £1079.68. £613.90 had been spent in the past year and £331.30 income received. The accounts for the current year were almost ready to be submitted to Aberdeen Council.	SY
3	Head Teacher's report and discussion	<p>DP gave a report on the current position. The school was continuing to operate with Covid mitigations and restrictions. A number of teachers had been able to take advantage of spare appointments for Covid vaccinations.</p> <p>An in-service day had taken place involving teacher self-evaluation. There was also input from Skills Development Scotland in developing a Skills 4.0 document intended to help identify skills for the future to develop in the curriculum.</p> <p>Incoming P1 places had been allocated; interaction was to be via Seesaw app although there may be some scope for an outdoor tour of the school with “doors open”. The school was still planning for significant early years expansion with the 8-6 all year-round model to come into play.</p> <p>There were plans to mark end of P7 in some way better than had been possible last year.</p> <p>Reports would be coming out in mid June. They would look somewhat different.</p>	DP

		<p>Children were still in class bubbles inside and out. It was hoped there would be scope to relax this soon to allow for mixing within year groups.</p> <p>A Local Authority route map was in place to indicate the way to relaxation of restrictions but this did not yet indicate a return to normality.</p> <p>There had been difficulty in getting music teachers back in school due to lack of a suitable ventilated room. Further relaxation will coincide with reintroduction of indoor PE.</p> <p>EM raised a point about encouraging pro-activity around possible relaxation of restrictions. DP pointed out that all current restrictions were required by the Local Authority.</p> <p>EM also raised a comment about whether the current focus on health and wellbeing was to the detriment of “traditional “classes. DP noted that health and wellbeing was placed as equally important as literacy and numeracy, but a lot was being done in relation to literacy and numeracy.</p> <p>ED point out that if children were not happy, they would not learn and that the wellbeing work supported the numeracy and literacy work.</p>	
4	Pupil Group Update	<p>LH gave an update – the Eco group had been the most active in beginning to tackle the school garden and with litter picks.</p> <p>Work was being done on a school travel plan which was necessary for cycle friendly school accreditation. More cycle racks had been installed and were being well used. There were renewed moves to see if a School Traffic Control person (aka Lollipop person) could be recruited for the school.</p>	LH
5	Cost of school year	<p>DP shared the response to a parent questionnaire on the topic indicating there was some need for help and some lack of awareness about help available. There was information on the school website and newsletters about this.</p> <p>There is now a Facebook swap site for school clothes. It may be possible to introduce a rack in the school where “preloved” clothes could be picked up once restrictions has eased.</p> <p>It was important to ensure that those who may need a bit of assistance could be informed of what was available and not deterred from reaching out.</p>	
6	Report from Parent Council	<p>MC reported on the Aberdeen Parent Council forum meeting on 28/4/21. In relation to vacancies there were 42.5 primary and 32.6 secondary but it was understood these were currently mostly being covered by probationers.</p>	MC

	forum meeting and discussion	<p>Noting that there had been very few positive Covid cases. There were some developments in the Dyslexia Outreach Services.</p> <p>This was becoming more service to train up staff in schools.</p> <p>There was a demo of the safer schools app- mid May launch due.</p>	
7	AOB and Information about Future Meetings	<p>Countesswells school update - waiting for funding from developers.</p> <p>With reference to the proposed development at the former Treetops Hotel. This was due to provide 95 houses with some 45-50 children due to be zoned for Airyhall. It appeared based on the 'planning capacity' that there may be scope to accommodate this, but the school had already expanded capacity from 12 to 14 classrooms limiting general purpose space.</p> <p>MC proposed and it was agreed that a special meeting would be organised to consider a Parent Council response to the consultation on the development. ACTION MC</p> <p>A comment was raised about the content of the PC minutes of January 2020 in relation to school zoning arrangements applicable to the Deeside area and a clarification would be issued. ACTION MC</p> <p>JA raised a query about the application of funds raised for charity, some of which had been applied to a foodbank but where there was £400 remaining. The possibility of a "Funday" at the end of term was raised and could be considered.</p> <p>An issue was raised about use by P6/7 of chrome books. There was an issue with the availability of sufficient sleeves to transport these. ED queried whether PC funds could be applied to this and SY would look into it but it was thought that the scope of legitimate PC expenditure might preclude this. ACTION SY</p> <p>SY was noted that a number of people would be leaving the PTA and replacements would be required to maintain the level of activity which was of significant value.</p> <p>The next Parent Council meeting was scheduled for 15 June.</p>	MC & DP
8	Meeting Closed	MC closed the meeting – with thanks to all.	MC