



Airyhall School Parent Council



Meeting – 26 January 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), Lois Benvie (LB), Kate McCafferty (KM) (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>	Ian Yuill
<i>Apologies</i>	Jacqueline Allan
<i>Minute-taker</i>	Eric Gilligan (EG) (Secretary)

1	Welcome	<p>The meeting was opened by MC at 6:35pm, who welcomed everybody to the meeting.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting on 17/11/20 were approved.</p>	MC
2	Accounts	SY had confirmed that the PC funds stood at £740.38. The accounts for the previous year had been submitted to Aberdeen Council and it had been confirmed in response that this year's grant funding would be provided in due course.	SY
3	Head Teacher's report and discussion	<p>DP gave a report referencing the recommencement of online teaching for the majority of children in light of the resumption of lockdown measures.</p> <p>A limited number of children of key workers and those deemed vulnerable were coming into school but were following the same online learning programme.</p> <p>The school had resumed the online programme as before but with feedback from the previous arrangements having been taken onboard. The feedback on the recent arrangements had been overwhelmingly positive. Some new arrangements were in place such as the start of the work being posted the evening before at about 9pm in order to facilitate parental review.</p> <p>There were also daily Googlemeet sessions with teachers. Not all children were joining as some may not feel comfortable but individual sessions were being arranged with those children. Overall, the level of engagement with the online learning programme was</p>	DP

		<p>very high. If children were not engaging, then the school would be in touch directly.</p> <p>KM noted that the Googlemeet session tended to have smaller numbers, but this was useful in allowing the children to feel comfortable in participating.</p> <p>EG noted that there were new videos recorded by the teachers which were excellent, and very helpful in walking the children through the work. It was clear that the teachers were working very hard to ensure the quality of the learning experience and this was echoed by all those present.</p> <p>DP noted that any further feedback would be welcome.</p> <p>DP would also issue a jam-board of useful tips for facilitating online learning and submission of work. (Post meeting note - this was completed and shared in the weekly school newsletter).</p>	
4	Report from Parent Council forum meeting and discussion	<p>MC provided an update on the city-wide Parent Council forum meeting.</p> <p>There was an indication that chrome books borrowed for pupils would be covered by Council insurance. 11,000 had been distributed across the city.</p> <p>There were fewer than 10 vacancies at primary level and 23.5 at secondary level which was far fewer than had hitherto been the case.</p> <p>It was indicated that some 23,000 children were engaged in online learning.</p> <p>Feedback from the Aberdeen education quality improvement meeting was as follows: Transition into P1 had been positive with children responding well to the additional independence of leaving parents at the school gates. Behavioural issues were also down. On the negative side it was noted that senior leadership teams were very busy and may be less available. Also, children with additional support needs may have more difficulties. Finally, it had been observed that S1 transition had been more difficult with less interaction possible and a lack of extracurricular activities.</p> <p>The vaccination of teachers against Covid 19 was also raised. DP noted that she was not aware whether teachers would be prioritised.</p>	MC
5	AOB and Information about Future Meetings	<p>SY indicated he had capacity to help with the Parent Handbook and Positive relations policy which LH was looking at.</p>	MC. DP

		<p>SY also queried whether any children turning 12 might have to wear a face mask on return to school. DP thought this was not the case as the requirement was based on setting but this could be clarified.</p> <p>The next Parent Council meeting was scheduled for 9 March 2021. It was noted that if it was felt necessary to have an extraordinary meeting this could be arranged.</p>	
6	Meeting Closed	MC closed the meeting– with thanks to all.	MC