



Airyhall School Parent Council



Meeting – 16 November 2021 Minutes

Chair: Mike and Ruth Crawford

Secretary: Eric Gilligan

Treasurer: Stuart Young

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| <i>Parent Council (PC) Members Present</i> | Mike Crawford (MC), Victoria Oumarou (VO), Stuart Young (SY), Emma Davidson (ED), Eric Gilligan (EG), Catherine Blackwood (CB), Katie McCafferty (KM), Jacqueline Allan (JA), Jacqui McKenzie (JM), Liz Chillingworth (LC), Melanie Croft (MC), Gillian Cormack (GC), Yvonne Thompson (YT) (attending via Teams) |
| <i>Staff Members Present</i> | Donna Polson, HT (DP) |
| <i>Aberdeen City Councillors Present</i> | Ian Yuill (IY) |
| <i>Apologies</i> | Ruth Crawford |
| <i>Minute-taker</i> | Eric Gilligan (EG) (Secretary) |

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| 1 | Welcome | The meeting was opened by MC at 6:30pm, who welcomed everybody to the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting on 7/9/21 had already been approved. | MC |
| 2 | Accounts | SY had confirmed that the PC funds stood at £1365.50. This year's grant funding of £285.82 had been received. | SY |
| 3 | Head Teacher's report and discussion | <p>DP gave her report. There had been some Covid 19 cases across the school necessitating issue of letter consistent with Public health guidance. Home learning was in place for a small number of children affected and required to isolate.</p> <p>There was to be an in-service training day on Friday 19 November for staff and support staff where various training was to be undertaken. In relation to the Pupil Group updates the Pupil Council would be responding to a pupil consultation exercise.</p> <p>P7 were doing some work for Children in Need.</p> <p>The Eco Group had been doing work in relation to climate change and Cop 26.</p> <p>The Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) were involved in a speed campaign working with the police.</p> <p>There was also work being done on a learner friendly improvement plan. Developments included the provision of "peaceful places" in classrooms to help alleviate anxiety as well as regulation strategies and targeted support.</p> <p>In relation to Christmas the guidance remained tight. The children were keen to do a Xmas enterprise activity which could be displayed in a virtual shop.</p> <p>World of Work month had also been progressing with some in person and virtual visitors to talk to the children about their jobs including a surgeon.</p> | DP |

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| | | GC asked a question about class mixing and whether that might be pulled back. DP stated that the guidance she received was not calling for a return to tight class bubbles and there was mixing within year groups only. | |
| 4 | Report from Aberdeen Parent Council forum meeting and discussion | <p>MC reported on the latest meeting. The Safer Schools App was in use and a presentation was available to view should anyone wish to see this – see also @OurSaferSchools on twitter.</p> <p>MC noted that the Head Teacher was responsible for reporting issues with the provision of school meals to the Catering Service, and that to raise questions parents, or the parent council on their behalf, should write to the Head Teacher.</p> <p>There was also a consultation on the reform of the SQA and Education Scotland which was being conducted by Professor Ken Muir which closes on the 26th of November.</p> | MC |
| 5 | Questions and Issues raised by Parent Forum | <p>1. Increase in use of MacAulay Drive for parking & resulting increase in children crossing Countesswells Road.</p> <p>There was a lengthy discussion on this point. EG raising this issue and noting that parent traffic apparently displaced from elsewhere was now increasingly using Macaulay Drive and the residential roads off it for parking and turning purposes whilst dropping off children. Unfortunately, there was a clear issue of inconsiderate and sometimes dangerous parking and driving in this area which compounded the road safety risk around the entrance to Macaulay Drive and on to Countesswells Road at that point. Several people noted that the road safety risks in this area had become particularly acute recently.</p> <p>It was stated that the Police could be e-mailed about particular incidents.</p> <p>Post meeting note - the e-mail address provided by Councillor Yuill for the local police team is: airyhallbroomhillgarthdeecpt@scotland.pnn.police.uk</p> <p>EG noted that there had still been no progress on plans to have either a school crossing patrol or a pedestrian crossing at this point.</p> <p>IY noted that there appeared to be real difficulty in engaging a school crossing patrol person. In addition, he understood that an issue had arisen in the Decision Notice issued by the Council to one of the House Developers whereby a condition to provide/pay for a pedestrian crossing had been omitted as a result of “error”. It was understood that the Developer was still willing to implement this, but this would only be done on a voluntary basis as opposed to being a legally enforceable condition.</p> <p>ED stated that it may be useful to involve the children in making a film about the issue to highlight it.</p> | |

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| | | <p>2. Quality of school meal provision - Feedback received that this appears to have deteriorated with daily “extras” not being available and quality and variety of meals less appealing than previously.</p> <p>DP noted it was the case that the “free bread” set out in the meals menu schedule was not being provided and she had raised this and asked the catering officer to escalate to her line manager as she was suggesting that she understood there was no requirement to provide the bread and that there was a “mistake” in the menu. There was a general discussion about the school meals provision, the quality of the food and portion size. It was stated that better description of some of the meals would be welcome e.g., “Caribbean chicken” and “cheese wheel.” DP stated that other specific complaints or comments could be put in writing to her.</p> <p>Post meeting note - additional information about the meals including more detailed descriptions, allergens and nutritional information area available at: https://schoolmealsinthecity.mysaffronportal.com/Menus</p> <p>3. How does the school celebrate diversity and other cultures?</p> <p>DP noted that this took place in a number of different ways.</p> <p>Time was spent as part of the curriculum class looking at Christianity as well as a cycle of other religions. The sharing of information by children about their religions was encouraged.</p> <p>Interdisciplinary work involved reference to different cultures- most recently to Japan.</p> <p>Diversity including same sex relationships and LGBTQ issues were also reflected appropriately in some library books which were available.</p> | |
| 6 | AOB and Information about Future Meetings | <p>MC referred to certain training opportunities which were available to parents in areas such as Stronger Families and Sleep Scotland. MC would pass details through for dissemination through the school newsletter.</p> <p>Reference was also made to the Treetops Development consultation, the final response date for which was imminent. Parents were to be encouraged to respond having regard to the relevant issues including impact on road safety and school capacity.</p> <p>The next Parent Council meeting was scheduled for 14 December 2021.</p> | MC |
| 6 | Meeting Closed | MC closed the meeting at approximately 830pm– with thanks to all. | MC |