



Airyhall School Parent Council



Meeting – 14 December 2021 Minutes

Chair: Mike and Ruth Crawford

Secretary: Eric Gilligan

Treasurer: Stuart Young

<i>Parent Council (PC) Members Present</i>	Mike Crawford (MC), Stuart Young (SY), Eric Gilligan (EG), Catherine Blackwood (CB), Katie McCafferty, (KM), Melanie Croft (MC), Emma McPherson (EM), Thavaseelan Kudarsamy (TK) (attending via Teams)
<i>Staff Members Present</i>	Donna Polson, HT (DP) Emma Currie (EC) Leigh Houston (LH)
<i>Aberdeen City Councillors Present</i>	Ian Yuill (IY) (for part of meeting)
<i>Apologies</i>	Ruth Crawford, Victoria Oumarou, Emma Davidson, Liz Chillingworth, Jacqui McKenzie.
<i>Minute-taker</i>	Eric Gilligan (EG) (Secretary)

1	Welcome	<p>The meeting was opened by MC at 6:30pm, who welcomed everybody to the meeting.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting on 16/11/21 were approved.</p>	MC
2	Family Learning	<p>DP introduced Zuzana Jatelova, gave a brief presentation on the new family learning service that was planned to be delivered from February 2022 intended to support parents in bringing up their children. She could be contacted on zjatelova@aberdeencity.gov.uk</p>	DP
3	School Meal Provision	<p>School Meal Provision. MC had indicated in his note issued in advance of the meeting that - there had been lot of discussion about school meals at the last meeting and it was confirmed that comments or suggestions should be raised directly to the Head Teacher, DP in writing (i.e. by email).</p> <p>One comment was that the menu wasn't clear on what some options contained. MC had found out that there is further information available on the meals at https://schoolmealsinthecity.mysaffronportal.com/Menus (this includes brief descriptions of what some meals contain, nutritional information, and allergens).</p> <p>DP reported that she had not yet heard back from the senior catering staff member on the issue raised of availability of the advertised bread who had been asked to raise the point with her line manager.</p>	

		<p>Post meeting note: to help DP expedite a response an email was sent by MC to DP on behalf of the Parent Council requesting clarification on the availability of the advertised 'free bread', although noting that this had been removed from the latest versions of the menu.</p> <p>Any other specific issues were to be put in writing to DP.</p>	
4	Road Safety	<p>MC had noted - concerns had been raised at the last meeting about: (i) poor driving and parking behaviours from a minority of parents at school pick, up and drop-off, (ii) the lack of crossing provision on Countesswells Road despite apparent agreements from the developers of the housing off Countesswells Avenue (Dandara) to provide this, and (iii) increased use of MacAulay Drive for parking and poor driving behaviours from people turning in the side streets. Follow up actions were as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school was going to propose to the Junior Road Safety Officer group that a video about road safety around the school could be made by the children and shared with Dandara and parents. - Councillor Yuill (IY) had provided the email address to contact the local police team to raise either general concerns about driving behaviour, or specific incidents of dangerous or inconsiderate driving & parking (airyhallbroomhillgarthdeecpt@scotland.pnn.police.uk). On behalf of the Parent Council MC was happy to collate any comments and pass on. EG would consider preparing a suitable e-mail to send to this address notifying the issues and requesting consideration being given to some form of police attention and possible presence. <p>It was also clarified by DP separately that the school car park remained closed to parents unless they were disabled blue badge holders- this restriction being unrelated to Covid 19 but rather to previously identified safety concerns.</p>	
5	Training for parents	<p>MC noted Mindful parenting training appeared to be the preferred option of those present at the previous meeting.</p> <p>EC stated she could deliver a session on phonics for parents as had been done previously (Post meeting note: the parents who had expressed an interest this have been put in direct contact with EC).</p> <p>KM stated that training for parents in how to support children with social anxiety would be useful. MC suggested supporting children with dyslexia would also be a useful topic.</p> <p>DP stated she would add a point to the school newsletter indicating that the PC would welcome indications from parents of areas of interest for training.</p>	
6	Treetops Development	<p>MC noted there had been over 80 objections lodged. The next step was to ascertain when the Council meeting determining the matter would be and to arrange to write a letter on behalf of the PC just prior to that.</p> <p>Post meeting note: MC advised by IY that the planning meeting is not yet scheduled but will not be before March.</p>	
7	Accounts	<p>SY had confirmed that the PC funds stood at £1365.50.</p> <p>DP was to ask if there was any written guidance on what PC monies could be spent on so as to inform decision making on the matter.</p>	SY

		Post meeting note: Donna Cuthill was contacted by DP for guidance and this was provided by e-mail to MC and SY.	
8	Head Teacher's report and discussion	<p>DP gave a report. The recent in-service Day had involved "talk for writing" training and included both teachers and PSAs.</p> <p>In relation to Covid new guidance was awaited in relation to the Omicron variant from Public Health. A number of children were isolating, and it was anticipated that some staff may have to isolate. Christmas activities were proceedings including Christmas songs which were being posted on Seesaw and the sale of Christmas products via the Enterprise site.</p> <p>LH gave an update on the pupils' groups. The Pupil Council had provided feedback on the pupil voice, the Eco Group had received an "outstanding" certificate of distinction and had been involved in Cop26 related activities., the Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) had had Police Scotland come to the playground and had the opportunity to try out their "speed guns".</p>	DP
9	Report from Aberdeen Parent Council forum meeting and discussion	<p>MC reported on the latest meeting in November.</p> <p>Reference was made to the school meals issue which had been discussed and the portion size which should be in accordance with guidance and also the further info identified by MC (see above) re school meals.</p> <p>It was noted that work had commenced on the Countesswells primary school but there was no progress on the promised Countesswells Academy. Bearing in mind that it could take 4 years from a go-ahead decision for building to commence there appeared to be no prospect of that arriving anytime soon.</p> <p>Reference had been made to notification of Lateral Flow test results for Covid which it appeared were being underreported.</p> <p>Reference was also made to GDPR obligations for Parent Councils. This was reflected in MC's practice of blind copying communications to PC members in order not to disclose e-mail addresses unnecessarily.</p>	MC
10	AOB and future meetings	<p>There was reference to a planned activity week for P7s which was in lieu of the usual residential week which was not currently possible due to Covid and the prospect of limited teacher capacity.</p> <p>The next meeting would be Tuesday 8 February 2021 at the usual time of 6:30 pm.</p>	
11	Meeting Closed	MC closed the meeting at approximately 830pm – with thanks to all.	MC