

Abbeyhill Parent Council Meeting

Date: 04 Sept 2019 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Venue: Abbeyhill Primary School

Minutes By: Simon Preston



| ITEM | DESCRIPTION | | ACTION |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| | PRESENT | | |
| | Simon Preston | PC Chair | SP |
| | Ann Pratt | PC Treasurer | AP |
| | Sally Ketchin | Head Teacher | SK |
| | Keith Martin | Principal Teacher (Nursery) | KM |
| | Dimitra Trivilou | Parent | DT |
| | Mel Chuprasova | PC Member | MC |
| | Vlad Hasiu | PC Member | VH |
| | Olly Paterson | Parent | OP |
| | Vala Dora | Parent | VD |
| | Heather Currie | Parent | HC |
| | Russell McClarty | Minister at Meadowbank Church | RM |
| | Apologies | | |
| | James Preston | PC Member | JP |
| | Illiyana Nedkova | Curator-in-Residence | IN |
| | Charlene Kay | PC Co-secretary | CK |
| | Karen Ridgewell | PC Co-secretary | KR |
| | | | |
| 1.0 | Welcome by the Chair | SP welcomed and thanked all for attending, especially those coming for the first time. | |
| 2.0 | The Role of the Parent Council | Was read aloud for those attending for the first time. | |
| 3.0 | Previous Meeting Actions | | |
| 3.1 | Scoosh – KM will attend the next board meeting for Scoosh. MC reported that the bus to bring children back to school is now operating. | | SK |
| 3.2 | Parent Lunch – SK will arrange one for later in the term. | | SK |
| 3.3 | Santander – SK will continue to try to arrange them coming back to volunteer. KM previously suggested they could rejuvenate the mural outside of the school. | | SK |
| 3.4 | Sainsbury's – have offered us 2 dates in September for fundraising bag packs. SP will confirm these with SK. Parent helpers would be welcome. | | SP |
| 3.5 | Supermarket Fundraising - SP is keen for a parent to volunteer to look | | SP |

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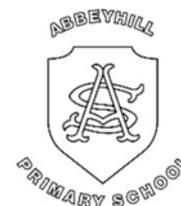
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| | into options to fundraise for Abbeyhill via a supermarket token vote. MC said Tesco at Holyrood might be a good option. RM mentioned Green Space Scotland as a fundraising possibility – he said that proposals need to have some wow-factor, an outdoor classroom is a school priority and would have this. | |
| 3.6 | Shed audit SK said the restocked sheds should be open as often as possible and will reiterate this at staff meeting and assembly. | SK |
| 3.7 | Playground thorns – These have still not been removed. SP has raised again with Cllr Alison Dickie who has promised it will be done. SK said that a CEC representative will visit on 05.09 to progress things. | SP/SK |
| 3.8 | Playground – SP said he hoped to form a PC subgroup to develop a 3-year plan for the playground development | SP |
| 3.9 | First Aid – KM will contact the Red Cross who have run a session for children before. | KM |
| 3.10 | Removal of Janitor's House – SK has been in touch with Peter Walton who is in charge of these things at CEC, things are progressing but slowly. SK will enlist KR's help in taking this forward. SP has followed up with Cllr Alison Dickie who will continue to push for action on our behalf. | SK/KR |
| 3.11 | Ceiling works – These have progressed well over the summer and several rooms including Rm 8, P1 and P2 are done. Classes P3-7 will be 'decanted' to Rm 8 whilst work is done on their classrooms | |
| 3.12 | Music Provision – SK will involve JP in discussions with CEC contact | SK/JP |
| 4.0 | Russell McClarty | |
| 4.1 | Film Club - RM presented his idea to start a pupil and parent Film Club working with Abbeyhill. All felt this was a great idea with lots of possibilities to integrate into existing activities, link to local businesses as well as developing new skills. All age groups could be involved. RM will develop the idea and work with the Parent Council to launch it. | RM |
| 4.2 | RM spoke about the importance of a school at the heart of any community and commended parents, carers and teachers for all the work they do in making Abbeyhill Primary School such a vibrant and welcoming place. | |
| 4.3 | Listening Walks - SK said that following feedback from pupils that they don't always feel listened to, RM will start 'Listening Walks' in the playground | RM |
| 5.0 | Chair's Report | |
| 5.1 | 2018/19 P7 Leavers - SP thanked CK and parents who assisted her in organising the P7 sweatshirts last term. SK asked if the Parent Council could again support the P7 Ceilidh. SP said he would like to hear ideas on what more we could do to give the P7 leavers a good send-off. | SP |
| 5.2 | 2019 Burns Supper Funds - Teachers have opted to buy Sphero App-Controlled Robots and K'NEX construction kits with the money raised. SP has ordered these and they'll be delivered in the next week. | |

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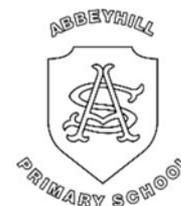
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| 6.0 | Treasurer's Report | |
| | AP presented the accounts since our last meeting, which were agreed. AP will arrange to spend funds raised from the Uniform Exchange on spare underwear to be held at the school | AP |
| | Playground Budget - SP requested a new playground budget be agreed, we currently need to top up sand in the sandpits, fix the loose parts play store and buy watering cans. SP will raise this with post holders for agreement | SP |
| 7.0 | Bullying | |
| | VH said that he had heard from several parents in different years that they did not feel confident that reports of bullying were being properly dealt with and that they would therefore not feel encouraged to come forward. He also said that he knew of families that had left the school for this reason. SK said this was disappointing to hear as she responds to all reports of bullying, is always available to meet families and carers and is clear with them on what strategies are being followed. She said that it is not always possible to keep parties informed of progress due to confidentiality requirements, but that parents and carers are always told to come back if they are still unhappy. SK said there was no quick fix but that she believed instances of bullying were dealt with quickly and carefully in the school and that the school has a good record in this area. SK is keen to be connected with any unhappy parent or carer. SK asked members of the Parent Council and Parent Forum to be alert and to advise any concerned parents and carers to speak up. MC said that she had been very happy with action taken when she reported an instance of bullying. SP said that as Chair he had been involved in supporting teachers and parents. HC said that it may help if it was made clearer to parents and carers that dealing with bullying was a priority for the school, for example making it clearer on the website. SK agreed and said her priority was always that every pupil should feel happy coming to school. SK and VH agreed to take the matter forward and to discuss in more detail the cases of which he'd become aware. | SK/VH |
| 8.0 | Head Teacher's Report | |
| 8.1 | Loose Parts Play – the equipment continues to be popular but presents problems when it is left untidy. Mr Scott-Woodhouse is looking at options to move the equipment to an area with less through-traffic. | |
| 8.2 | New Staff – SK reported that new teachers are settling in really well. MC mentioned that it was great to see a better gender balance among teachers. | |
| 8.3 | Meet the Teacher - SK talked through the format for the Meet the Teacher evening on 05.09 – SP plus representatives of the Holyrood Palace Education Centre, Holyrood Park, mindfulness lessons and Colony of Artists will attend. Mrs Landsdown will also attend to talk about her work on gender equality in the classroom. She will also sit in on some lessons in the coming weeks and will feedback to teachers. | |

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| 8.4 | Families Connect – SK explained the value of the Families Connect programme, which will soon begin again. Families Connect have made a request to the Parent Council for financial support which SK will forward | SK |
| 9.0 | Curator-in-Residence Report | |
| | Colony of Artists Café - In IN's absence SP talked over plans for the upcoming Colony of Artists and passed on IN's request for support in organising the Café that runs in the school hall over the weekend (22/23 Sept). SP is meeting IN on 11.09 to find out more. SP is willing to help out, as is AP but due to other commitments neither is able to be the co-ordinator of the Café. SP will contact other Parent Council members and parents who have been involved in the past. MC will post on the P1/2/3/Facebook groups, looking for helpers. | SP/AP/MC |
| 10.0 | Clubs Update | |
| 10.1 | Recorder Lessons - Recorder lessons will start 24 September for P4/5. SP has spoken with Linda Watt who will buy the instruments, the money for these will be reclaimed from lesson fees. | |
| 10.2 | Abbeyhill football team - Our new Abbeyhill football team has been recruited and will play our first match against Wardie Primary this Saturday in the Edinburgh Primaries Soccer 7s League. SP will lead the team, parents Scott Welsh and William Kearns (WK) will coach. Team kit has been handed over by sponsors Graham Construction at a ceremony this morning. SP and WK attended a meeting of team leaders, among other things there was a presentation about appropriate behaviour of parents and carers at the games, SP will pass on this information to parents and carers. First match is 10.30am at Northfield on 07.09 – please come along! A P3/4 team will follow after Christmas. | SP |
| 10.3 | Capoeira and Spanish – KM explained that due to ceiling works Rm 8 is not available for clubs. Capoeira will therefore most likely not be able to start until January when he hopes works will be completed. SP will let the teacher know. Spanish lessons will be for all years and can start now. KM will advise ASAP of day/time that is available within the timetable | SP/KM |
| 11.0 | Halloween Disco | |
| | All enthusiastic that this should go ahead. Thanks to KR who kindly organises it. MC again volunteered to organise the quiet area. | KR/MC |
| 12.0 | Christmas Calendar | |
| | Again, all enthusiastic that this should go ahead, especially after the good team work and valuable lessons learned from 2017/18. Again, Thanks to KR who organises it. KR will contact teachers next week to arrange artwork. JP will make calendars available to buy online. | KR/JP |
| 13.0 | Allocation of PC funds to new projects All were asked to consider ideas for investing Parent Council funds to improve the school. SK is keen to see an outdoor classroom created. JP would be happy to work on an Awards for All lottery application to fund | JP |

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| | this. | |
| 13.0 | Any other business | |
| 13.1 | Letters of thanks - MC thanked KM for writing letters of thanks to businesses that have supported school events. | |
| 13.2 | Water – AP asked SK to remind teachers and pupils of the importance of drinking water whilst at school | SK |
| 13.3 | Playground – SP asked that the broken trim trail bridge be fixed ASAP and that the stage be returned. SK will raise with Linda Watt | SK |
| 13.4 | School Website – SP asked that parent council information on this be corrected | SK |
| 13.5 | Parent Council Cupboard – SP and AP will audit this | AP/SP |
| 14.0 | Next Meeting Dates | |
| 14.1 | 6 Nov (AGM and voting for post holders) 15 Jan 4 March 29 Apr 17 June | |