

Abbeyhill Primary School

Parent Council Meeting – Minutes

Wednesday 4th December 2013

Present: Chris Byrne (Chairman), Lisa Tansey (VC), Charlotte Intihar(VC), Di Falck (Treasurer), John Dallas, Amine Mourad, Sandra Stewart (Headteacher), Lynsey Stewart, Caitlyn McDiarmid and Linda Watt.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Following a full and frank discussion on the various possible interpretations of the term “transparency” in the Chair’s report, the minutes were agreed.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Co-opted members / office bearers:

It was formally and unanimously agreed that Amine Mourad would serve as secretary to the group.

3. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

CCWP Group Meeting:

Amine attended on Chris’s behalf. He reported on discussions about School Meals, Parking and the proposed reduction in Headteachers’ Management time in smaller schools.

Consultative Meeting in City Chambers 11 November on Council Budget Proposals:

Chris Byrne attended and reported that the main concern was again the proposed reduction in Headteachers’ management time. Several other attendees expressed concern. All present were encouraged to bring alternative proposals.

4. TREASURE’S REPORT

Treasurer Di Falck distributed transaction details and a report to all present (attached).

Di stated her intention to apply to CEC for the unused Clerk Funds in February.

It was reported that the Hallowe’en Disco made a profit of £215.51, bringing the total funds available up to £2,327.67

It was proposed that around £500 would be given to the school. After discussion with staff, Mrs Stewart requested that, as the school had already invested heavily on novels for younger pupils, this be spent on ‘top-up’ novels for the older pupils.

The committee agreed to contribute to the cost of the P7 bowling and pizza event. The Parent Council contribution is expected to be up to £100.

£1,200 would be spent on parental priorities. One possible project is scooter parking, at a cost of £350. Chair to investigate the siting of scooter parking further with LW and liaise with Treasurer regarding ordering of the scooter pods.

Contingency fund of £527.67 will be retained.

Mrs Stewart gave special thanks to Lisa Tansey for the sale of Christmas raffle tickets. Mrs Black, a Pupil Support Assistant, had collected prizes from generous local businesses, and Mrs Pender had made and knitted several lovely prizes for the raffle.

5. REPORTS FROM PARENT COUNCIL SUB-GROUPS

Events:

Planned events include an International Day – date to be confirmed

Gardens and Grounds:

Amine will run the Gardening Club this year. Di Falck kindly agreed to remove the garden waste and dispose of it.

The ECO group are waiting to hear from Edinburgh Greenspace Trust. They hope to get two new bird boxes.

6. HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

Mrs Stewart gave a report to the Parent Council about recent events in school, and told the group that pupils and staff are enjoying preparing for Christmas.

Mrs Stewart reported that she was pleased with the recent HMIE report. It acknowledged that Abbeyhill PS was on a journey of improvement, and that there was a lot of good work taking place. Points highlighted will be fed into next years' Improvement Plan. They were extremely impressed with the innovative practice of our Colony of Artists event.

Information on 'Easy Fundraising' was passed to Lisa Tansey for further investigation.

A DHT at Drummond HS has expressed an interest in attending the Parent Council meetings. Mrs Stewart agreed to forward a list of dates.

Abbeyhill PS is holding a Family Film Day on Friday 13 December which parents, pupils and friends may attend.

7. PARENTS' SUGGESTIONS

The Parent Council all agreed to place a suggestion box in the school office for this agenda item.

- a) Access to the swimming pool was queried. It was explained that this could be organised through School Lets, but that a suitably qualified lifeguard needed to be present. A discussion followed about the swimming lesson allocation throughout CEC, and in school. There was also a related discussion about a query regarding access to the dining room during swimming lessons. This has been ended due to the room being left in an untidy state. Again it will be possible to arrange access through School Lets, so that cleaning costs can be paid for.
- b) There was discussion about the legality of employing someone to work in a crèche to allow parents to attend Parent Council meetings. Linda Watt agreed to investigate and report back to the group.
- c) Parents have requested that communication from school is sent via e-mail. Linda Watt agreed to organise this early next term.
- d) There was discussion about electronic collection of school dinner money etc. Linda Watt explained that this is currently being trialled and it is hoped to be available in all schools in the near future.
- e) Parents have requested more notice about group activities e.g. playground painting and gardening. The committee agreed to put up notices advertising these events in advance.
- f) Concerns had been raised about young children not eating their packed lunches. It was explained that there is a supervisor in the dining hall, and that children are encouraged to take any uneaten food home with them, so that parents know what is being left. Individual concerns should be raised with the school.
- g) A parent had raised concern about children not being properly wrapped up in the playground. Miss Stewart explained that putting on their jackets etc. had been a homework task for P1 pupils to encourage their independence in this area.

h) Parking issues remain a concern. The group agreed that local councillors may be able to assist and that an invitation to future meetings would be extended.

8. School Travel Plan

The results of the School Travel Survey were circulated. Some concerns were expressed about the proportion of journeys made by car. It was also noted that school staff did not feature in the survey results. Due to lack of time remaining it was agreed that this survey, the Travel Plan and the work of the Junior Road Safety Officers will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

9. A.O.C.B.