

Abbeyhill Parent Council Meeting

Date: 24.01.2018 18:30 – 20:00
 Venue: Abbeyhill Primary School
 Minutes By: Karen Ridgewell



ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
	PRESENT	
	Simon Preston New PC Chair	SP
	Iliyana Nedkova Events	IN
	Karen Ridgewell PC Secretary	KR
	Astrid Gracie Acting Head Teacher	AG
	Charlene Kay Parent	CK
	Aidan Weston-Lewis Parent	AW-S
	Melanie Chuprasova Parent	MC
	Apologies	
	James Preston Parent	JP
	Keith Martin Principal Teacher (P6)	SP
	Vlad Hasiu PC Treasurer	VH
1.0	Welcome by the Chair	
1.1	SP welcomed and thanked all for attending. Apologies and introductions were made.	SP
2.0	Drummond Head Girl and Boy	
2.1	Alisha (Head Girl) and Laiquh (House Captain) shared their incredibly positive learning and supportive experience at Drummond with the PC. We are keen to develop a relationship with DCHS and have asked if the current pupils would like to return to speak with the Abbeyhill Pupil. AG to arrange with JH	AG
3.0	The Role of the Parent Council	
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role of the PC discussion was briefly outlined for the new attendees. Reference was made to the SPTC website should anyone desire additional information 	SP
4.0	Previous Meeting Actions	
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SP confirmed JP had reviewed the SportScotland application process and has advised additional support and discussion with CEC may be when the next application window opens as the application process is more onerous than expected. SP advised JP is also currently looking at additional funding for an outdoor classroom. 	JP
4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KR tabled draft letter for Andrew Easson (Road Safety & Active Travel Manager) about the change in the crossing green man duration and the increased traffic/air pollution caused by the construction works at the St James Centre site. All to review and issue comment by 2nd Feb 2018. 	All
4.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The missing CEC funding remains outstanding. AG to discuss with LW 	AH
4.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KM to provide a scan/photo of the Dynamic Earth Golden Ticket 	KM

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4.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KR tabled a draft letter to John Clark (Capital Planning Asset Manager) chasing confirmation of the planned date of the demolition of the Janitors House. All to review and issue comment by 2nd Feb 	All
4.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SP confirmed the staff/pc grounds meeting had occurred earlier in the week, the following was discussed: Survey Loose Play Successful award of funding for equipment and training How to spend the calendar funds Storage Scrim Hand holds Clean Up Fruit Trees Planters Fire Signage Pupil Council Meeting Awards for All application 	
5.0	Chairs Report	
5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SP acknowledge the receipt and read the content of the Pupil Councils letter requesting Parent Council support with the raising of funds to improve the school grounds Thanks were offered to JP for the work updating the PC webpage Congratulations and thanks were offered to SP, JP and Miss Stephen for the successful loose play equipment application Thanks were offered to Mhairi Scott, Gail Glesson and KR for the 2018 Calendar which has raised over £1200 to be spent on the school grounds improvements Mr Martin et al have set a date for 'Super Saturday' (the school grounds clean up) – Saturday 3rd March 10am – 2pm The Edinburgh Tool Library Tooligans have kindly offered to make the new fire lines signage 	
6.0	Treasurers Report	
6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VH is unable to attend but has provided the following info, which SP has shared with the meeting 	
6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current PC Bank Balance £2536.83 	
6.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calendar Fund Raising = £1195 	
6.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burns Night Fund Raising = £185 (noted some payments are currently outstanding) 	
6.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monies Spent in December 	

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	Nursery (Shark in the Park) = £192 Panto Bus = £425 P7 Ceilidh Band = £175 Christmas Disco = £80 (donations totaled £75.79)	
6.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominal funds contained within a cash box at school 	
7.0	Head Teachers Report	
7.1	Pupil Numbers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 157 Primary Pupils 48 Nursery Children 	
7.2	School Staffing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AG confirmed Mrs Bidoni has decided to retire (31.12.2017), AG noted the school, staff and parents are immensely grateful for her dedication and commitment to the school and her passion and enthusiasm for teaching. Consequently, a permanent vacancy for a class teacher is currently being advertised in My Job Scotland (closing date is 28.01.18) Challenges being faced by all schools currently with staff sickness absences and little if no supply available – results in management having to cover classes, which impacts on development work: this week two teachers and 2 PSAs have been off sick – we’ve managed to cover classes and ensure children are continuing to be taught 	
7.3	Nursery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional cloakroom and toilet space: the contractor has been appointed and work is due to be carried out during the Easter holidays The capacity will grow to 64 (we’re anticipating 60 after Easter) Room 1 to be re decorated – hopefully during the half term holiday Currently conducting a review of our nursery environment and hope to upgrade some of our furniture and resources Implications for staffing - we will need two additional adults in the Nursery: currently considering the options (2 x EYPs, initially) and plan to recruit for the start of the summer term 	
7.4	School Building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning to re-paint the dining room/kitchen, either in Feb or the Easter holidays 	
7.5	Update to Modern Languages 1+2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following discussion and consultation at Drummond Community High School, it has been decided that whilst French will continue to be taught as Language 2, Spanish will be introduced in the cluster primaries. This will replace German, as Language 3. The cluster has been allocated funding to support resourcing and the training of teaching staff. The school are also looking forward to welcoming a Spanish assistant to work in classes in May/June. 	

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7.5	<p>School Improvement (National Improvement Priorities)</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s Parliament: recent workshops to share their learning with different groups of adults • Mindfulness – lessons have started in P5 and P7 (P6 and P4 were last term) • GIRFEC- seeking children’s views as part of the child planning process and also encouraging children, where appropriate to attend meetings • Building Resilience programme being used across the school – assemblies, lessons in class and home/school learning opportunities • Using PEF funding to provide access to extra-curricular and curricular activities (eg trips) for children whose families might otherwise struggle • Miss Stephen has established some small nurture groups working with identified children as part of our Building Resilience Programme • Whole school training in the Visual Support Project (January) – now rolling out a whole class visual timetable across the school • Autistic Spectrum Disorder whole school training in January 2018 <p>Raising attainment (Literacy and Numeracy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff now engaging with the new benchmarks in literacy and numeracy to help track progress through the levels of ACfE • New reading books have been introduced at Second Level (P5-7) to provide challenge and engage the children • Staff continuing professional development focused on this both through collegiate time and also individuals (eg. SEAL champions, writing at second level) <p>Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school leaver destinations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P6 and P7 attended careers workshops at Dynamic Earth • Artists in Residence, Collective Gallery and Talbot Rice Art Gallery – continue to build links • Developing STEAM in school – recent Generation Science workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ P1-3 ‘Marvellous Magnets’ ○ P4 – 6 ‘Robo Constructors’ ○ P4 had an extra chemistry workshop: Fizz! Bang! Boom!’ • AHT attended the Edinburgh Head Teachers Conference on Developing the Young Workforce (23.01.18) – key messages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DYW <i>is</i> the curriculum ○ The need to make ‘skills’ explicit with children <p>This will be on ongoing priority for next session: have agreed to explore how we can take forward the agenda at cluster level (will be central to our cluster planning day in April</p> 	
7.6	<p>New End of Year Summative Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As discussed in November, there are some key principles about reporting, namely that it should <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be regular, meaningful, purposeful and on-going throughout the year 	

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ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and improve learning • Involve learners • Provide information to parents/carers on progress and next steps and so they can be involved <p>In November, I advised the Pupil Council about how we were proposing to use Learning Journals for reporting on individual children, as well as twice yearly parent consultations.</p> <p>As a staff, we recognised the need to provide parents with evidence of progress within ACfE curriculum areas. Consequently, we have drafted an end of year summative report, which contains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a one-page summary of levels achieved by pupils – please note that most children’s reports will show the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ P1 – Early Level ○ P2 Early level (though working on First level) ○ P3 Early Level (though working on First level) ○ P4 First Level ○ P5 First Level (though working on Second level) ○ P6 First Level (though working on Second level) ○ P7 Second Level • information on attendance and punctuality (though parents will be aware prior to this, if we have any concerns) • a space for a short, personal comment by the class teacher <p>This will be sent home in June.</p>	
8.0	Drummond/Gaelic Medium Education	
8.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KR/AG outlined their meeting with Crawford McGhie (Acting Head of Operational Support) of CEC. Advised a consultation meeting is to be arranged in the near future at Drummond CHS to discuss the proposed introduction of Gaelic Medium Education and the consequences with the HS and the cluster primary schools. It was agreed as soon as that date has been confirmed information will be circulated to the AH parent forum via FB, Parent Mail etc. 	SP/CK/AG
9.0	Burns Night Update	
9.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SP provided a brief summary of the events planned for tomorrow night 25th & confirmed tickets have sold out which has raised approx £300 for the school grounds improvement fund. 	
10.0	Future Events Discussion	
10.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed 	
11.0	Update on Artist in Residence Programme	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IN provided an update of the current and proposed Artist-in-Residence Plans for 2018, which include: Sylwia Kolasinsaka (P4) Kristin Mojsiewicz (P6) Juliana Capes (P7) 	

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	Catherine Payton (P4-7) Citadel Arts Group (P4-7)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IN confirmed the following residency funding applications are in progress and include the following: Polski (Nursery – P7) Morna Pearson (P4-P7) Citadel Arts Group (P4-7) Lotte Kravitz (P6-7) Alice Myers (P1+2) Eleanor Robertson (P1+2) Nic Garris (P1+2) Alice Cooper (P1-7) Anne Gilchrist (P4-7) Jackie Morris and Robert Macfarlane (Nursery-P7) Nedyalka Panova (P4-6 and S1-6) Fraser Gray (P1-7) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IN noted sponsorship is being sought for the planned P6 trip to MAPA Scotland, Peebles 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KR noted that IN has been applying for funding to support the programme on her own. IN and JP to discuss possible sharing of information for subsequent funding applications 	IN/JP
12.0	Any Other Business	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KR advised that we need a PC Chair. SP volunteered, was nominated and his adoption of the role was voted for by attendees. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KR advised she has fulfilled the role of PC Secretary for 3 years & that she will be stepping down at the AGM on June 20th. 	
13.0	Next Meeting Date	
11.1	Wednesday 7 th March 18:30 – 20:00 P7 Classroom	