

Abbeyhill Parent Council Meeting

Date: 06 Nov 2019 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Venue: Abbeyhill Primary School

Minutes By: Charlene Kay



| 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 |
| | Charlene Kay | PC Co-secretary | CK |
| | Vlad Hasiu | PC Member | VH |
| | Olly Paterson | Parent | OP |
| | Illiyana Nedkova | Curator-in-Residence | IN |
| | Janina Costa | Parent | JC |
| | Apologies | | |
| | James Preston | PC Member | JP |
| | Vala Dora | Parent | VD |
| | Heather Rikic | Parent | HR |
| | Karen Ridgewell | PC Co-secretary | KR |
| | Mel Chuprasova | PC Member | MC |
| 1.0 | Welcome by the Chair | SP welcomed and thanked all for attending. | |
| 2.0 | The Role of the Parent Council | Not required. | |
| | Annual General Meeting Minutes | | |
| 3.0 | Minutes of last AGM – didn't discuss. | | |
| 4.0 | Chair's AGM report – Thanks to all the parents and carers who have taken an active role in the running of the Parent Council and its events since the last AGM. It has been a busy and successful year for the Parent Council since our last AGM in November 2018, Here are some of the highlights. In 2018/19 the Parent Council has... | | |
| 4.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintained an excellent relationship and dialogue with key staff, teachers and other staff at Abbeyhill, helping to raise and resolve important issues affecting parents, carers and staff. | | |
| 4.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Networked with nearby PCs, contributing to North East Locality and CCWP (Council Consultation With Parents) meetings. | | |

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| 4.3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed beneficial relationships with Cllr Alison Dickie (removal of thorn bushes in the playground, demolition of Janitor's House, raising awareness of Abbeyhill as a centre of excellence), Graham Construction (funding, loose parts play equipment, bug hotel), Lidl (sponsorship of kitchen classroom ingredients), Sainsbury's (bag packs, sponsorship of Burns Supper), Stockbridge Market (supporting the P7 stall with a discounted rate) and the many local businesses that have sponsored the Calendar and raffle prizes. | |
| 4.4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased parental engagement in meetings and events. The PC Facebook Page has grown from 49 in May 2018 to 111 followers. | |
| 4.5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased the range of clubs available to pupils in school – including additional drama and computer classes and a new recorder class. | |
| 4.6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched and equipped an Abbeyhill Football Team that has played in the Edinburgh Primary Schools League. | |
| 4.7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raised over £6k through fundraising and events that has helped fund a broad range of artist programmes, an Abbeyhill football strip, playground improvements, STEM equipment (Sphero programmable robots and K'NEX), cookery lessons, the P7 Ceilidh and more. | |
| 4.8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organised hugely successful Burns Supper, Talent Show, Summer Garden Party, Colony of Artists and Halloween Disco events | |
| 4.9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produced and sold out the 2018 Christmas Calendar | |
| 4.10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved the playground through cleaning, weeding, painting, planting, a second sand table, additional loose parts play equipment and restocking the sheds with sports and play equipment. | |
| 5.0 | <p>Treasurer's AGM report – The grand total right now is £5126.78 with £3030.22 in committed funds and £2096.56 in uncommitted funds. Billy McElhone (P4 dad) has audited the accounts and all looks good. Parent council project funds include the Young Scot P7 Guide, the playground, Burns Night/Abbeyhill Decides, the Halloween Disco, the calendar, recorder lessons, café at the Colony of Artists and the P7 ceilidh band at the end of the year.</p> | |
| 6.0 | <p>Invitation for new PC members and office bearers – Exciting post holders will remain with same positions (SP – chair, CK/KR – co-secretaries, AP – treasurer). IN, JC, VH, OP will be parent council members. MC, VD, HR can be parent council members if they wish (required to attend every third meeting).</p> | MC, VD, HR |
| 7.0 | <p>Any Other Business (AGM) – none.</p> | |
| | <p>Parent Council Meeting Minutes</p> | |
| 8.0 | <p>Minutes of last meeting...</p> | |
| 8.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 – KM will still attend the next board meeting for Scoosh | KM |

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| 8.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.2 – SK hasn't arranged a parent lunch yet but will do at some point | SK |
| 8.3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.3 – Need to get in touch with Santander to ask them to come back and volunteer – maybe they could work on the mural (IN and SP might take this on now, will get in touch with Billy McElhone (P4 dad) about it. | IN & SP |
| 8.4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.4 – one Sainsbury's bag pack has happened and money raised went towards P7 camp | |
| 8.5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.5 SP will still look into someone to take supermarket fundraising on | SP |
| 8.6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.7 – thorns have been removed – hooray | |
| 8.7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.9 – KM has emailed Red Cross, just waiting on a date for first aid training. They will probably focus on one or two classes. AP said she and MC talked to the St. John's Ambulance folks at Montgomery Street for a fair and they said they could come to the school, AP will follow up with MC about this | KM, AP, MC |
| 8.8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.11 – ceiling works are progressing, all the classrooms have been done. Everything will be done by Christmas for the most part, they'll be back during the February break to finish hallways. | |
| 8.9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.0 – The playground budget was agreed. Money raised from the talent show and garden party went to this and it is there for when we need to update playground | |
| 8.10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 – club update: Recorder lessons are not full – only one pupil is signed up despite many children saying they want to do it. There are free taster lessons and lessons have been opened up to all kids in P4, P5 and P6 now but still, only one pupil has signed up. KM suggested having the parents come in to see the demonstration as that could encourage them to support their kids who want to do it. | |
| 8.11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10.2 – The Abbeyhill football team for P5-7 has been in the primary school league since Sept., however we are not getting enough for a team recently so this team has been dropped. The focus will be on the P3/P4 teams which will start in Feb. (P4 team will become 7 a side, P3 team will be 4 a side). | |
| 8.12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10.3 – Capoeira club will probably start in January, KM will organize a demonstration, this will be open to all classes, Spanish still ticking along but hopefully it'll start in January, it will be open to all years, | |
| 8.13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13.3 – The trim trail will be fixed ASAP, SK chasing it. KM talked to Billy Forester about the stage getting back up and he said it'll be up by the end of the week. | SK/KM |
| 8.14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13.4 the school website still needs to be updated with current parent council information, SK will do. | SK |
| 9.0 | Chair's Report | |
| 9.1 | Thanks To IN, VH and all the artists, parents, pupils and bakers who helped make Colony of Artists at Abbeyhill a brilliant success once again, raising £340. Thanks to Scott Welsh and William Kearns who have taken | |

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| | on management and coaching of the Abbeyhill Football Team. Thanks to KR for running the Uniform Exchange, providing a vital service and raising fund for spare underwear to be available in school and organising another hugely successful Halloween Disco – which also managed to raise over £100 for PC funds. Thanks to Heather Rikic who has volunteered to work with SK to update the P1 handbook. | |
| 9.2 | Our Connect membership has been renewed (council pays for it) – covers the parent council for insurance for the year. Thanks to SP for renewing this. | |
| 9.3 | We have about ten days to apply for the Ten Villages Community Fund – the council funds up to £3000 that can be used for equipment, activities, volunteers, small-scale projects that enhance improvements in the area etc. IN said we've gotten this funding in the past (it was called something else) and we should do it again – got the full £3000 last time, AP will need to provide account info – she will speak to JP because he did the application last time. | IN/AP/JP |
| 9.4 | At the last NorthEast Locality meeting there was a presentation from someone who has been spearheading a project on tools for relationship health and sexual health for nursery to P5. All resources are online and available to teachers and parents. SK said the school's health and wellbeing team are looking at them at the moment and will decide soon how to present this to the classes and how to tell parents about the support provided. The website is https://rshp.scot/ | SK |
| 10 | Treasurer's report | |
| 10.1 | The grand total right now is £5126.78 with £3030.22 in committed funds and £2096.56 in uncommitted funds. | |
| 10.2 | SK mentioned organizing navy blue sweatshirts for the 2020 leavers and the current P6 class for next year. SK suggested spending money from calendar or what we have for outdoor class room – SP agreed but also would be great to get funding in one chunk – lottery funding is £10,000 if we get it. | SK/SP |
| 11.0 | Head teacher's report | |
| 11.1 | Staff absence - Thank you to all P1 families for being so understanding and supportive following Mr Hamilton's recent family bereavement. Mrs Black and Miss Wynn continue to be signed off. Supply PSAs are requested on a daily basis but we have not been successful. | |
| 11.2 | Janitor's house - The demolition team were round today and told Billy that work will start immediately after the new year. No official word yet although we have been promised to be kept in the loop. Janitor's House now has more secure panels outside it. SK spoke to IN about decorating them then they'll be placed somewhere else in the playground once they are taken down, could put a call out to parents who want to get involved. | SK/IN |
| 11.3 | Thorny bushes/Outdoor classroom - Thanks to Simon and Cllr. Alison Dickie for helping to pile the pressure and get this done! We hope to use the cleared are for an outdoor classroom (plans submitted to Simon by | SK/SP |

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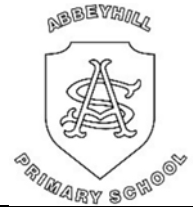
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| | Leuan Scott-Woodhouse). We all looked at the outdoor classroom outline design by Mr. Scott-Woodhouse and agreed it will be brilliant when done. There will be sheds, fruit trees, fire pit, planters, covered area with sail sheet etc. SP and JP will help organize the fundraising. Another idea is to split the football pitch in half to have one half for just football with permanent goals and the other half of the area for loose parts. OP suggested a green house and SP and others agreed. SK suggested a green house in place of the suggested second shed. SK and SP will work on next steps and timetable, would be great to get it done by Spring for planting. | |
| 11.4 | M&M productions 'Dick Whittington' - This was a great success and all the children enjoyed it. As it was a lot cheaper than taking all the children to the theatre, we may repeat it next year but will ensure we take advantage of other opportunities during the year for everyone to enjoy live theatre (Imagine, Festival). | |
| 11.5 | Underbelly's Community Christmas - this event will go ahead despite the school being closed to pupils and being used as a polling station on the day (Dec. 12 7-7:30pm). This is opened to the entire community. | |
| 12.0 | Curator-in-residence update | |
| 12.1 | Thank you to everyone for participating and enjoying the Colony of Artists. Abbeyhill Primary had a two page spread in the booklet this year – massive increase from other years. There was great support on social media. There are still copies of the Comic Universe booklet, could sell these in future during Stockbridge Market fundraising or at film night. We have six headsets with mp3 school tour recording. The Polski programme has been running for 4 years now. The London ambassador came this year which was great. We have a photographer, filmmaker and poet amongst other artists coming up later this school year. IN asked if the CoA café profit – £339.84 – be set aside to be used for lets that we may need to pay for at the end of the year if we have run out of our allotted free let hours. | |
| 12.2 | We have applied for funding through the Edinburgh Fringe. We all had a look at the Holyrood Park outdoor classroom activities poster which is now a map and an app as well – the kites from this project are now hung from the stair at the entry of the school. Might try to run a poetry related outdoor classroom project in Holyrood Park. Lots going on! | |
| 13.0 | <p>Child and parent survey on attitudes to behaviour -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The children's survey was carried out with 25 children from P1 – P7. So far, 50 parents have completed the survey online with a generally positive response (94% of parents feel that their child feels safe in the building, 80% at breaktime, 96% think fallouts are normal, 28% are happy for another parent to reprimand their child, 94% expect a situation to improve after speaking to a staff member). Comments indicating areas for improvement were themed around aggressive behaviour in the playground (4 comments), lack of regular communication from the school (1), racism (1), disruption caused by misbehaviour in class and in the playground (1), parents reprimanding other children (8), zero tolerance not working (1). | SK |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 43 positive comments including 27 nominations for 'Hero Helper' awards. We all had a look at the survey results and discussed how we felt about them. AP said it's concerning that 5/24 kids said they don't feel safe at the playground. SK said this is mainly with kids pushing – SK taking time to explain to the kids affected <i>why</i> something has happened and that it is not OK and reminding PSAs to be mindful of way they speak to children because even if issue is minor it is important to that child, at the same time trying to encourage kids to be resilient and solve problems amongst themselves. SK will try to do a more regular follow-up with parents rather than expecting them to get back in touch to discuss whether issue has improved. SK would like to repeat survey in Spring and see if survey results improve. VH spoke positively about the survey and would hope more kids would answer the survey if it is done again. | |
| 14.0 | Halloween Disco report - great fun, made £142.65. Thanks to KR and other parent volunteers for helping run the event. Thank you to Mrs. McCourt and Mrs. Pender for being fantastic as always at the disco. Many parents were happy fruit was handed out following the event this year rather than sweets. | |
| 15.0 | Christmas Calendar update - we didn't really discuss this but everything to do with the calendar is underway fabulously and it will be on sale next week. | |
| 16.0 | Any other business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent Sian Harris sent SP info about an empathy game. It costs \$400 and asked if PC would fund – SP will send to SK, we can discuss next time. | CK |
| 16.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HR would like the PC to provide crèche for PC meetings – CK to add to next meeting | |
| 16.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burns Supper will be Thursday Jan. 23, 2020. | |
| 16.3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VH said the after school club has started – a few kids have signed up, more are joining. SK will mention it in her next blog post. | VH/SK |
| 16.4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KR asked if we can get more vegware cups – SP has asked them to give us some more. | SP |
| 16.5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SK mentioned one of our P7 students entered the Winter Windows competition and won it so will have his design made into a stained glass window on the Royal Mile. SK will take P7 class up to see it and buy them a hot chocolate to celebrate. | |
| 17.0 | Next Meeting Date | |
| 17.1 | January 15, 2020 | |