

Parent Council Meeting (held online on Teams)

Thursday 11th February 2021

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Fiona Esson (chairperson), Jan Watt (Treasurer), Laura Ferguson (Fundraising), Joanne Reid, Gemma Wood, Angela Pond (Head Teacher), Jane Veitch (P1,2 Teacher), Christina Farquhar (P5,6,7 teacher)

Apologies: None

2. Approval of minutes – Meeting 11th November 2020 – no comments and so approved

3. Matters arising from previous minutes

Abbreviated Improvement Plan to be uploaded to website – Mrs Pond advises that the current priority is recovery, and the plan will be updated for next year.

Disconnect across year groups – P1/2 and P5/6/7 were introducing themselves online and the older children were enjoying reading stories to the younger ones (when the IT allowed). The older class had built dens and were starting to produce maps for the younger children to follow. This work was starting to make a difference to the relationship between the groups.

4. Treasurer's Update

Opening balance £1045 + £353 Halloween + £400 Christmas - £31 Paypal - £219 children's gifts (to be given out when possible) + £278 Aberdeenshire Council Funding for running costs of the Parent Council - £240 from Football Club to be paid to school. Closing balance £1585.

Children's Enterprise £215 to go to school.

Jan Watt commented on how much the children enjoyed the Enterprise activity and suggested that in future with more time there were opportunities for them to have artwork on the website, also would be good to know how much they raised.

Post meeting addition - Mrs Pond advises that school received a further £191.34 so Enterprise raised over £400.

5. Headteacher's Report – see attached, plus additional points as follows:

P7 MCMEDS transition group – objective to get to know others in the cluster who are moving up to Academy, so far just our P7s, but will open up to others. No idea what transition will look like yet, doing online just in case.

Budget – some savings with not being in the building the whole year.

Parental feedback shared – 8 responses to online survey and 7 phone calls (random). Feedback mainly positive. Some finding it difficult to fit with structure, feels like everyone is doing the core items and less of the optional tasks, which is fine. Also trying to ensure teachers have a balance. Some would like children to have an opportunity to socialize online, difficult for school to facilitate as a teacher would have to be present and then children may not chat the same. School are tracking engagement, from a wellbeing perspective only.

Children's feedback also shared – also largely positive.

Fiona Esson suggested possibility of recording lessons for children to access when convenient, but teachers had discussed and would prefer to do live lessons. Fiona commented that we are lucky that the teachers are all doing live lessons as this is not the case in all schools.

MarvellousMe – possible replacement for Seesaw – Mrs Pond investigating.

Outdoor Learning will all be onsite due to staffing.

Pupil return (p1-3) – still waiting for guidance from the Scottish Government, not expected until Tuesday, but Mrs Pond has prepared and submitted a plan to QIO. She will provide an update as soon as possible.

Lateral Flow Testing kits will be made available to all working in school – twice a week – participation voluntary.

6. Action Points

P7 Transition – See above. Mrs Pond also advises the transition will be further developed by the pupil support workers who would normally come to school. Unlikely to be a residential trip, hoping to organise an activity day for the cluster.

P1 Induction – 6 new starts, majority at Playgroup so Mrs Pond will be working with Kay Conway (Playgroup Manager) on this, also awaiting guidance.

Grant applications / Competitions

TESCO grant application (for storage and various outdoor items to replace those lost in the fire) was not successful in December, but the panel have deferred our application to be considered for the next round of awards that will happen in March 2021. No guarantee but at least it was not a no – fingers crossed!

Onefamily grant – Fiona Esson applied and was successful with an application for £2,500 to pay for a shelter. We already have parent volunteers to build it and Mark Patterson (builder) has kindly agreed to assist with groundworks. Deeside Log Cabins have provided similar items for other local schools and are a registered Council supplier. Quote received would require us to pay £2,700 and it was agreed that Parent Council would put in the additional £200. Fiona and Mrs Pond to take forward.

7. Events and Fundraising

Review of Christmas Event: Lots going on at Christmas, but we still managed to raise around £400 from the shop and raffle. Thank you to everyone who supported and helped. Jan will arrange the raffle this weekend – apologies for the delay.

Future events: Looking to do some online events – Laura will put a message on Facebook asking for ideas since not many people at the meeting. Will hold another fundraising zoom meeting in March to discuss. Hopeful of doing a cakes / crafts event for Easter / Spring but need to wait for Covid restrictions to change.

Committee had also hoped to involve the community more – Jan suggested that we communicate what we have managed to achieve so far to recover after the fire and ask for donations with a wall of names and a small item made by the children for those who donate. Starting point is knowing what else school want and this depends on the outcome of the Tesco application. To be discussed further at fundraising meeting.

Joanne suggested Textile Fund and Thrift Shop – Fiona will follow up

Post meeting addition – Rob Brookes still happy to lead the organisation of the Muddy Run when Covid restrictions allow.

8. News, correspondence, invitations

Fiona has joined Parent Council meetings with other chairs – nothing to report.

Thanks to those who attended.

Next meeting will be on Zoom to discuss Fundraising - date to be agreed.

Useful websites/information for parents:

Education Scotland

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/covid-19-education-recovery/>

Scottish Government Guidance on Schools

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-preparing-start-new-school-term-august-2020-version-3/>

Parent Club guide to Coronavirus restrictions

<https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/coronavirus/new-restrictions?age=0>

<https://www.npfs.org.uk>

<https://www.connect.scot>

<https://education.gov.scot> – scroll down to “subscribe to our newsletters” – various ones to choose from.

Facebook pages:

- National Parent Forum Scotland
- Connect (formerly Scottish Parent Teacher Council)
- Education Scotland