



ABOYNE PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 7th November 2017, ABOYNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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| PRESENT | Amanda Whitfield, Valerie Stoddart, Cllr Paul Gibb, Cllr Geva Blackett, Jenny Blair (Chair Person), Becki Redmond, Robert Dinnie, James Littlejohn, Lucy Wisely, Corrie O'Shea, Julie Reid, Jemma Cathro Moig, Angela Fletcher (Minute), Abigail Turley, Nicola Ewen. | |
| APOLOGIES | Claire Wallace, Shaeron Smith, Fiona Walmsley | |
| AGENDA | | ACTION |
| 1.0 | Approval of Previous Minutes Approved. | |
| 2.0a | <p>Welcome and Update from Chair (Jenny Blair)</p> <p>JB welcomed all and reminded members that the Vice Chair position was still vacant and it would be good to have it filled. BR reminded all that a new Chair would have to be in place for the next school year and anyone interested may benefit from being Vice Chair this year.</p> <p>Issues have arisen over congestion and bad parking around the school entrance. VS has asked staff to reverse park into spaces and all were in agreement more needs to be done. JB advised parent council, school and police all need to work together on this issue. A meeting will be organised to discuss this issue further and all information will be shared.</p> <p>Some in attendance had to leave shortly so discussion moved to the school improvement plan</p> | JB |
| 2.0b | <p>School Improvement Plan</p> <p>Mrs Whitfield advised she will be interviewing for new staff and is confident the teaching vacancies will be filled. There will be changes to the nursery staff as a nursery manager and additional practitioners will be hired to cope with the extra opening hours. Aboyne Nursery has been chosen for a pilot scheme whereupon the opening hours will be longer 8am to 6pm and the nursery will also be open for some holidays. However this will be drip fed and available for families who meet a certain criteria.</p> <p>VS will be in charge of implementing the Scottish National Standardised Assessment system for Aboyne Primary school. This is a tool used to help teachers identify strengths and areas of development and planning next steps in learning for our children. It's an online adaptive system that challenges them if they are doing well or can drop a level if needed. It will involve children in p1, p4, p7 and S3 focusing on aspects of reading, writing and numeracy. No revision is required.</p> <p>All members of staff were invited to attend Calms Training and de-escalation strategies on the In Service days in November.</p> | |



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| <p>2.0c</p> | <p>Fundraising BR advised that the focus this year would be on raising money for playground improvements. This is in addition to the annual spending commitments meaning in the region of £8000 was the annual target.</p> <p>The Christmas cards worked really well raising £286.10. The children working on their designs within class, mainly through the Art Teacher was a success, next year it would be worth considering a shorter hand in period as having it over the holidays did cause few issues. With thanks to Jenny, Fiona, Jemma and Nicola for helping with the orders.</p> <p>The Halloween fancy dress raised £256.00. Thanks to Mrs Whitfield for doing the prize draw and well done to all the parents for the most excellent costumes this year.</p> <p>The Christmas raffle is in final stages of development, with the star prize now being confirmed as a Years Membership to the Aboyne Gliding Club. Response from parents and local businesses has been great and the list of prizes is looking good. BR asked if P7s could help with selling them after school in the playground during the first few weeks of December – she will check with P7 teachers. Tickets will also be sold at the School Discos and by sending home a ticket order form enabling those who maybe don't come into the playground to buy too.</p> <p>Permission was sought and granted to hold a Christmas jumper day on the last day of term with an option to jazz up school sweatshirts should a Christmas jumper not be available.</p> <p>Christmas discos will be held on Friday 15th December at the school hall using the new sound system. Leanne Duncan has very kindly gifted her time to run the disco. The cost will be £2.50 and will include a glow stick, drink and snack. Permission slips will go out soon, FW to organize. BR looking for parent helpers.</p> <p>BR advised she has information on the Co-op and Tesco funding opportunities and will look into these further.</p> <p>Bags to School is planned for Wednesday 22nd November. Unfortunately, a permanent bags to school bin is not possible to implement.</p> | |
| <p>2.0d</p> | <p>Finance The current balance is £8,300, £1000 available plus Christmas card and Halloween money to be added. Teachers have received their spending incidentals totaling £60 per class.</p> <p>A bank card is now available to aid in withdrawing money through the post office given the closure of the local Clydesdale Bank, two signatures are still required. JR has looked into online banking but it won't be possible given the costs.</p> | |



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| 2.0e | <p>Class Reps (Lucy Wisely) LW reported all is going well with the class reps although notifications for help required in the school can be really late. AW will try to notify people sooner.</p> | APS |
| 2.0f | <p>Playground A discussion was had regarding raising money for the school playground improvement fund. Mr Dinnie stated he may be happy to contribute to this worthwhile venture, provided the equipment was well looked after. He also commented how good it was to see exactly what the Parent Council pays for and how it helps with the cost of non-essential goods for the school.</p> <p>Both Mr Dinnie and Mr Littlejohn raised concerns regarding Primary 1s safety in the school playground regarding older children. Mrs Whitfield reassured both parents that the matter had been discussed at a meeting with the P1 parents concerned and that she would gladly hear their specific concerns should they arise.</p> <p>An issue was raised about Academy pupils hanging around the school perimeter. Mrs Whitfield advised she had been in contact with the Academy regarding this issue.</p> <p>Suggestions were made around zoning the playground or having separate play times. A discussion was had around the importance of ensuring appropriate levels of staffing were in place to cover playtimes and many of those present stated appreciation for work done by the PSAs in supervising playtime. Mrs Whitfield explained the ratios required within the playground and assured parents that this was met.</p> <p>All agreed a possible sub group should be set up to help look at possible playground improvements that would hopefully alleviate some of these problems and with the fund raising for this. Mr Dinnie and Mr Littlejohn to be invited to join this group.</p> <p>VS is awaiting more bark to be delivered for the playground and is in discussion about a safeguard to stop children going on the climbing frame roof, with the possibility of it being removed.</p> <p>The boundary fence continues to be discussed and Cllr Gibb agreed to speak to Allan White regarding this.</p> | BR PG |
| 2.0g | <p>Spending Commitments JR shared all class incidentals (£840) have gone through for 14 classes. School trips are subsidised at £200 per class, per year P7 Gifts need to be considered as annual spending commitment. Christmas Parties were discussed, JB agreed to buy snack and small gift per child. School placement of 2 x Notice boards was discussed – one near the main school gate and one at the steps down from the academy car park.</p> | JB AW |



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| 2.0h | School Website A new member of staff will be taking on the duty to liaise with IT regarding website. | |
| 4.0 | Date of Next Meeting Date: Tuesday 23 rd January 2018 Time: 6.30pm Location: Aboyne Primary School | |