

## **Minutes of Aboyne Parent Council AGM September 2022**

**Present:** Becki Redmond, Sarah Sargent, Colin Hutchison, Julie Reid, Nicola Ewen, Katherine Kinloch, Vicki McPherson, Gemma Massie, Elaine Walker, Mr Galloway, Leona Banks, Katie Stewart, Natalie Pinnell, Heather Smith, Eilidh Connolly, Josie Heslop

**Apologies:** Alastair Brodie, Cllr Sarah Brown, Corri O'Shea, Shaeron Smith, Laura Robertson, Dawn Lobban

**Approval of previous minutes** – 1<sup>st</sup> Gemma Massie, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lucy Wisely

### **Head teacher report, Mr Colin Hutchison**

As you know, I officially took up position as Acting Head on Monday, August 22, our in-service day, before we welcomed the children back to Aboyne Primary School the following day.

Those three weeks have flown past and already it feels like I have been here for very much longer – with the caveat that I am still finding my way around the school – physically sometimes when I turn the wrong way in the corridor! – and getting to know the children and my colleagues and of course, you, the parental community.

But on that note, everyone has been incredibly welcoming and supportive in these early weeks. I would particularly like to thank Depute Head Mrs Lobban and our new Principal Teacher Katie Stewart for all their support and assistance so far. I feel we have a very good Senior Leadership Team in place which can help the school go forward this year.

There seems a good ethos and atmosphere around the school, one which I am determined to nurture and develop as the year progresses. I have been popping into classes as much as I can, to see the children at their work and that has been very useful to start to get an understanding of the learning and teaching across the school.

I have also continued and adapted a programme of assemblies dovetailing the week. On a Monday morning, we have our Happy Start to the week, an online session where we discuss the school value we will be focussing on that week. Then on a Friday, we have department assemblies in person, led by me for early level (including our nursery children), first level with Miss Stewart and second level with Mrs Lobban where we give recognition to the children who have gone above and beyond that week.

We are having a strong focus on our values this term, as I feel it is important for the children

and staff alike to take pride in Aboyne Primary School. I have introduced a rolling programme of displaying the children's up to date work around the school on display boards in the corridors and Mrs Lobban is hard at work on rolling out Seesaw as a profiling tool to Share the Learning between children and their families and as soon as this is good to go, we will keep you fully informed.

My first Head Teacher's newsletter was sent out at the end of the first week and it is my intention to communicate with you all regularly and as best I can. I feel it is important to keep our parental community informed of the workings of the school and you, as the parent council, are obviously the gateway to that school community.

It is my intention to be introducing parental drop-in sessions at the school: an informal chance for parents to stop by and have a chat and a catch up with myself in person. I feel this will be a good way for parents to get to know me and me them and build and develop relationships going forward. The exact details and timings for this still have to be finalised but I will be sending out information in due course.

In the spirit of keeping you informed, I had intended to send out an update last Friday regarding the building works on the Community Resource Hub but the death of the Queen overtook that and Aberdeenshire Council instructed schools to put a pause on all but essential communications during the period of mourning. However, I am happy to share with you now the most up to date information I have.

The work on the Hub is, as we know, well behind schedule. I have been told that it is intended for the inside work to be completed by Friday, September 30th. After that, we will of course require some time to get the furniture and accommodation right for the children so it is not envisaged this will be up and running immediately after that date. As you can imagine, this has been extremely frustrating for me as the new HT, the whole school coping with the disruptions and in particular our ASN staff and the children they work with. I have to particularly praise the ASN staff for the way they have worked so hard to adapt and provide the best service they can for the children.

Work outside the Hub on the grounds is also significantly behind schedule and will be continuing after the inside works are complete. I do not have a completion date for this yet but will inform you as soon as I do.

This situation has obviously impacted on our plans for Meet the Teacher. We had hoped to have this when the Hub was open so parents could see our new facilities but that clearly cannot happen now. I am happy to be guided by yourselves when this should happen – if you would rather wait until the new Hub was finished or if you would rather have this sooner?

We are in the process of rewriting our homework policy based on consultation with our parental community last session. We have started homework for this term on a low key, soft approach from this week with the new format starting after the holidays. Again, full information about this will be shared in advance. Google classrooms are up and running for each class now.

Finally, I want to share that it is highly likely there will be a visit from HMIE this year – Aboyne has the unenviable record of being the school with the longest gap from its previous inspection in the entire country. We have not been informed officially of any inspection yet – but it is highly likely it will happen sooner rather than later. With this in mind, myself and the Senior Leadership Team are likely to be gathering evidence and preparing for this in the weeks ahead, so you may find us asking parents for their views and gathering evidence in a variety of ways. Your support with this would be much appreciated.

I would just like to finish by stressing I very much have an open-door policy – if anyone has any matters they wish to raise with me directly, please just contact the school office to set up an appointment.

*Discussion held around a “meet and greet” event with teachers. Whether to hold meet and greet with classroom teachers and combine with opening of hub. Most agreed would prefer to be able to get into classrooms to meet teachers etc. as soon as possible and then have a later opportunity to come and see the hub when ready.*

### **Parent council reports**

#### ***Chairperson: (acting) Becki Redmond***

Gradual return to business after covid. Fundraising has come back online – thanks to Lynn Timmins and fundraising team. Managed to raise enough to cover pre-planned costs in a “covid sensitive” manner.

Thanks to Sarah Sargent – navigated a couple of difficult years.

Parent pods were held again in the playground a couple of weeks ago. Good to have a chance to speak to new parents etc. Worth continuing.

Appointing of Mr Hutchison

Becki will be stepping down. Thanks to the committee for their support.

#### ***Fundraising Lynn Timmins***

Various events held: Cauliflower cards, Gin raffle, selling Santa suits, Bingo night, tea towels to name a few.

Great job from the team – bringing in enough to cover annual commitments – P7 calculators, donation to each class for trips etc, incidental monies, Christmas party food for next year.

***Class rep report Shaeron Smith***

Thanks to all class reps. Shaeron has resigned from the role. Handover has been done to Eilidh Connelly.

Some classes still needing reps.

***Playground report Becki Redmond***

Costs have increased. Funds sitting at £11600. Aiming for £20000.

3 applications underway. Awaiting to hear. Marr partnership grants - would need to be spent within that financial year.

A Merry Go round sale is planned for November

Possibly co-op bag pack.

Hopefully aiming for £20,000 by Christmas

Consider appealing for business support.

Komplan have agreed once the budget has been achieved approach them again and they will come back with adapted plans.

Looking to get new people for support.

***Accounts Julie Reid (see attached PDF appendix)***

Approval of last year's accounts.

£58000 available funds post ring fenced monies. (£11600 ringfenced for playground). This covers next year's commitments assuming the same as last year.

£150 per class for trips/visits etc.

(To be considered with teachers as to how best money could be spent.)

Accounts approved by Gemma Massie and Elaine Walker. Can now be submitted to Trsuh Atkinson for the external auditing.

### **Approval of Constitution**

Proposed change to “no more than 75% change” of committee members rather than “50% change”. Agreed.

Constitution change proposed to allow teacher rep in addition to 12 members of the committee and not required as a subcommittee. Agreed.

### **Change to committee**

Thank you to Julie Reid – standing down as treasurer, Becki Redmond stepping down as chair, Lucy Wisely stepping down as secretary, Shaeron Smith stepping down as Class rep, Lynn Timmins stepping down from fundraising coordinator, Elaine Walker, thanks to all leaving members.

### **Election of new members:**

*Chairperson:* Natalie Pinnell nominated by Becki Redmond and seconded by Sarah Sargent

*Secretary:* Mairi MacDonald nominated by Natalie Pinnel, seconded by Lucy Wisely

*Treasurer:* Lyndsay Thomson nominated Lucy Wisely, seconded by Elaine Walker

*Class Rep:* Eilidh Connely proposed by Becki Redmond, seconded by Gemma Massie

*Fundraising coordinator:* Sara Henry nominated Natalie Pinell, seconded by Becki Redmond

*Vice chair* – Vicki McPherson nominated Natalie Pinnell, seconded by Sarah Sargent

*Teacher rep:* Mr Galloway: proposed Elaine Walker, second Sarah Sargent

Ordinary members: Becki Redmond, Lucy Wisely, Sarah Sargent, Josie Heslop, Leona Banks, Victoria Phillips Kennedy,

### **AOCB:**

Mr Galloway: parent council web page to be updated. Minutes to be conveyed to school to be uploaded.

School lunches survey done on school lunches. No update from school. Parents aware that certain items run out, certain items not available as advertised. Mr Hutchison will look at this.

Sarah Brown: Zebra crossing: hopefully in coming months. Lucy to contact Cllr Brown re other area – Bridgeview road.

Still car park issues, safety issues.

South Marr comm safety group – disbanded. ? any interest in this becoming active again.

**CLOSE**

