



ABOYNE PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 20th APRIL 2023, ABOYNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

PRESENT	Colin Hutchison (Head Teacher), Natalie Pinnell (Chair Person), Hollie Davidson, Richard Galloway (Teacher Rep), Becki Redmond, Sarah Sargent, Sheona Read, Mairi MacDonald (Secretary) Grant Thompson, Leona Banks, Victoria Philips Kennedy, Lucy Wisely.	
APOLOGIES	Geva Blackett, Clr Sarah Brown will be joining us online.	
AGENDA		ACTION
1.0	<p>Chairs Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Natalie Pinnell: Thank you everyone for coming. Welcome everyone to the meeting. I'd like to outline the objectives of the parent council to work with the school to benefit the pupils. To engage and support activities for children.</p>	
AGENDA		ACTION
2.0	<p>Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes</p> <p>Any comments from the minutes of the last meeting. No comments. Minutes approved.</p>	
AGENDA		ACTION
3.0	<p>Head Teacher Update</p> <p>Thank you for coming this glorious evening. My update this term has a lot of thanks in it. Last term was incredibly demanding. Inspection back in January and then the findings were shared.</p> <p>Thanks to those who attended the meeting. Heartening to see the level of turnout from the community. Appreciated everyone coming along. Opportunities for parents giving feedback gave a wealth of information in terms of our thoughts moving forwards. Have started using that program. Working groups met on Tues night and we started using the feedback from parents. Redrafting. Next steps will be speaking with the children. Thoughts and comments being put to good use.</p> <p>Looking forwards. Newsletter had a lot of the dates for this term's calendar. Other work going on behind the scenes. At the moment all the teachers are working on the report cards. Going out towards the end of term. They're going through the process now.</p> <p>Two visits from quality improvement scheduled in for May. Formal observations from leadership team. Mrs Lobban, Mrs Stewart going to be focusing on formal observations. New jotters monitoring procedures,</p>	



	<p>including new jotters.</p> <p>P7 show 16-17th busy rehearsing for that.</p> <p>Sports day 25th May penciled in. Revisiting sharing and learning. Was a good opportunity to get children back into the habit.</p> <p>Communication – class newsletters going out tail end of next week. About what’s ahead in the classes.</p> <p>Bikeability is going to be happening w/c 5 June. Opportunity for p7s to become competent on bikes. Along lines of cycling proficiency. Starting with p7, and see how it’s rolled out. NP: Why did that stop? HT: Covid.</p> <p>Also wanted to discuss the news that was sent out via email today with the news that Head Teacher Mrs Whitfield has decided not to return to the school. That news was shared with staff today also. That was only shared with myself today. The post will need to be advertised and we are hopeful that somebody will be in place to take up the position in August. I will certainly remain here and ensure a smooth handover to whoever takes over the post.</p> <p>That does not mean that I’m not considering applying for his position. I’ve said I’ve been covering for a year break. I need to think about whether or not I would be applying for that position. No decision has been made one way or another. The recruitment process is in place now and should be completed by August. Reconfirming that I will stay until handover takes part.</p> <p>Alongside the job advert we’re going to try and sell the heart and soul of Aboyme Primary school with a microsite so people are aware of Aboyme and what it has to offer, what it means to be in Aboyme.</p> <p>Thank you one again for your continued support. It is much appreciated.</p> <p>SS: Thank you for joining. We’d like to say it would be great if you would take up the position. CH: Thanked his teaching staff. Couldn’t do his job if teaching staff weren’t so supportive.</p> <p>Communication. GT wanted to discuss how to view progress that is being made with regards to the inspection results and subsequent improvement plan. He suggested use of a GANTT chart to track and monitor actions and due dates.</p> <p>CH: Things have been moving on in the background. Could look into how something like that would be implemented.</p> <p>Lots of commercial practice. Session mgt team at least should be on some kind of path to get them ready, to give them tools to communicate what’s going on. Would give us the chance to contribute and comment on progress. Transparency.</p> <p>CH: Happy to follow that up with you and look at how something like this can be implemented. I know that we’ve already hit milestones. There is</p>	<p>PARENTS</p>
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	<p>some of that which could be shared with parents. I will speak with Deborah Masson.</p> <p>NP: Would be great to know the progress to see if there's some way we could contribute as parent council.</p> <p>CH: Working better and tighter. Embedded in way things will move forward. Formal observations 8th May.</p> <p>RG: From a teacher's perspective that sort of thing would help everybody.</p> <p>CH: During this term, "positive behaviours policy" will be up and running. BR: Would be good to know a rough idea of the kind of communications. CH: Getting policies lined up so that by the end of this term.</p> <p>School uniform is the next thing which we'd like to discuss. That's the next one on our action plan, but needs to be consulted on and in place for August. We'll try to give you heads up like this, so you know what's coming up. What are our priorities? "positive behavior policy" and school uniform is a priority.</p> <p>NP: Do you have a plan for capturing feedback? We could get involved.</p> <p>BR: There's been a positive change in the school. My son has noticed and Becki wanted to communicate this. Nice that he noticed the change.</p>	
AGENDA		ACTION
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Treasurer Report Fundraising.</p> <p>We are still in the process of transferring the permissions from Julie Reid to LT and NP.</p> <p>We have a bank balance of £21,990.00 at the moment. A reduced amount of this is available, the rest in ring-fenced for use.</p> <p>21,705 after upcoming spending. Coop fund we have ring fenced for Bookshelving. Spoke with Milly Leggett about the unit in reception.</p> <p>Issue after issue with the bank. Can withdraw money from the bank. Would like to change banks for next year.</p> <p>RG: Developing outdoor learning. Comes out in consultation as popular. Has had a big impact on my classroom. Chris Redmond shared info of a supplier, so we're going to look at how we can use the money. CH: Important that the younger children get access to this. Planned progression with outdoor learning. NP: is there a plan to make the outdoor learning school wise. Seems to be that it's particular teachers. CH: There's nothing to stop Mr Galloway from taking out younger</p>	



	<p>children. Look at ways to widen this across the school. Galloway: I've been fortunate as I've had parent helpers. Need a core of parent helpers who would be willing to be a set of hands for supervision. Do we still need PVG certification? For the school, we're allowed to get involved, as long as we're not left alone with the child, we can help. Which means that we should be allowed to come into the class and help as long as we're not left alone with the children. Some discussion regarding the PVG barrier. Becki Redmond went through the process recently. It's a long process. NP: if we could clarify that we could get involved with helping. CH: Classes will be organizing school trips again this year.</p> <p>Sheona Read: Her daughter is in nursery and parents are allowed to go into there, so surely it's the same in primary school. It's exactly the same scenario. CH: It's so obvious the connection between the two.</p> <p>NP: There's been a request for additional benches for children to eat lunch at outside. Spoke briefly with CH.</p> <p>CH: Child psychologist was impressed that we had the facility to have kids outside for lunches. If there was more seating outside the dining hall, that would be great. Would be great if there was more opportunity for more children to have access. Part of the festival money was used for planters, benches.</p> <p>Benches - was wood donated from the Sawmill? Leanne Duncan's husband was involved in this. Mid Deeside community trust is the trust that manages lady wood. They want to get a survey done of the trees and are looking for support on this. Get older kids to help survey? Get the kids to plot the trees on a map. Adopt a tree idea. CH: We will follow this up with you. Thank you for this.</p>	
AGENDA		ACTION
5.0	<p>Playground Development Update</p> <p>BR: have been in touch with the council. Met Tues this week. They have said in terms of supporting us with putting bark in. Because they are defined areas they're classed as top ups. He also said he would top up other area with climbing frame. She highlighted that there was a trip hazard due to the shortfall in bark. Top soil will be dropped off during the holidays to sort issues with trip hazards. She also requested that the playground could be swept, stones etc. At the moment the bark area, could we ask the janitors to snip away the trip hazards of the black membrane. Rake over to level out. Re new items 13,300.00 cant' fit a single large item. If we had a top up, we could potentially put in an agility frame or something else.</p> <p>I also spoke re the stage. They don't stock a stage. Look at somebody to get involved with building a stage. Rotakids might want to take on building a stage with a professional. Kids have always been involved in this process. The kids chose the company that we use. What we want</p>	



to do now is give the kids the option. In order to do that, I need another £3,000. Spoke with the Council man Iain. Certification is so expensive. They had one piece of wood replaced and it cost £2,000. He wasn't surprised at the cost. I'm asking if we can use some of the unrestricted funds to get something underway in the playground. There are a lot of parents involved in raising £10,000 and they should now be able to see some benefit for their fund raising. Upset that we didn't have the money to transform the playground. There do seem to be a lot of restrictions.

GT: Is there anything to stop us becoming a charity? BR: It's a massive process. Changes in accounting, strict. If we went down that road, you can't go back. Big responsibility. Big step up in terms of a community group. Becki explains a bit more about where this money came from.

SS: We've looked at hundreds of funds, and all of them want to know why the council isn't funding the playground, so they've not been having lots of positive help.

Elaine: Briefly mentioned how much is in the bank. Understand we're about £3,000 short, is that right? Personally, this is my last year and it upsets me that the funding that was received has still not been spent. I'm not sure who's all present in the room. There's not much parent representation here. Decisions should be talked about more widely.

Alistair: Wondering how some of the spending ideas could be on the back of another charity. How playground equipment could become a project of mid Deeside community council? BR: The issue we have is it's a school. The defining line is that it's a school playground, not a community park. Equipment is ringfenced for use during school time. Budgets and funding wise, we are putting in a piece of equipment for the community. We've been here for 4 ½ years and I'd dearly love to see the culmination of a project I've put a lot of time and effort into. SS: There was a playground committee. There are only 3 parents left of the committee. We just want to get this done now. BR: We used to run with £3 or 4k in the account. We look like we have a lot of money. We don't need to be sitting with that level of money in the bank. NP: Profits from events are not as high as previously. Little involvement from parents, no volunteers. I'd like to see something happen. Can we take it to the parent council to vote? We need a minimum of 6 people to vote to reach a decision on the spending. CH: I'd like to see this go ahead and am aware of the level of work that's gone into this. I'm happy to back this.

Elaine: Up for the idea to vote to up the funding to £16k. Could the outdoor learning fund be used for the stage? BR: I think the funding has been allocated to specific items. CH: Stage would provide opportunities within the playground, but the outdoor learning might be more along the lines of out in the woods. NP: would leave £5,500 in the bank. There are some items outstanding to come off these funds.

BR: Once there's an agreement made. Spoken with Ms Stewart. She can have a vote with kids this next week. It's an 8-10 week lead time. It's going to be August before anything would be done. Some discussion about where the new piece of equipment would go, and what happened to the previous equipment. BR: The new items will be fitted



	<p>into metal rather than directly into the ground, which will mean they'll last longer. The council have committed to maintaining the new equipment.</p> <p>BR: I would like to propose £3000 of parent council funds be transferred to the playground development project. Seconded by SS. And approved unanimously by the present parent council members.</p>	
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AGENDA		ACTION
<p>6.0</p> <p>Fundraising Update</p> <p>Under normal circumstances we would be fully behind May fair. Just not sure we have the capacity. I don't want you to think we're not interested in supporting. It is a very busy term with a lot of work already being asked of our staff. Focus is on development after the report. We have other priorities.</p> <p>We have a meeting coming up to discuss what we would like to focus on for the rest of the year.</p> <p>Natalie confirmed what the money was spent on, re school trips, incidentals, leavers calculators.</p> <p>Bins are going to be branded for the houses, colour coded. Try to make it fun for the kids. BR: "litter lotto" they snap a photo of yourself putting litter into the bins. CH: GDPR implications. Looking to get some vinyl wraps for bins. SS: Milly Leggett and litter pickers. Milly Leggett: Rotokids. CH: Will get Ms Stewart to get in touch with rotary and kids.</p> <p>6.0 cont.</p>		
AGENDA		ACTION
<p>7.0</p> <p>Any Other Competent Business</p> <p>There's been a lag, lengthy process in zebra crossing. Sounds like it will be completely installed by the end of the term. Contractors have seen how many people walk that way and are supportive of the crossing. LW: there has been chat about Bridgeview Road, it seems that the development there as this section of the road has become a potential hazard. They've moved the gap in the path, making the access more dangerous. The kerb hasn't been dropped, and no lines have been added. Sarah has agreed tat she. will chase this up.</p> <p>Calculators have been confirmed for p7 kids. They will receive Leavers jumpers in June.</p> <p>Nursery request for donations of small world toys.</p>		



	<p>Have spoken with Katie and are going to look at sending resources to parents on teaching methods. CH: we'd be keen to introduce this again. NP: it would be great to receive Updates on topics that are being covered, so we can help support with home learning. CH: a secure Youtube channel would be a great way. Not something that's going to happen instantly. Needs to be done properly. Something we would like to implement. What fell by the wayside during Covid times, and what can we take forwards?</p> <p>GT while it's sunny outside, what better time to start thinking about planning for winter resilience. We have an issue with teachers committing. I know Sarah is on the call just now. Last year I asked counsellor Blackett if we could ensure there will be access to essential spares, pipes, lagging etc. what is the process? CH: The school is opened up by the academy in the morning. If something is not working they would alert myself at that point. I'm here back of 7am anyway. If something's not right, I report it to the academy, Jonathan Holden. We have Aberdeenshire contractor who come and fix that type of thing. This doesn't happen quick enough, closing the nursery when the underfloor heating wasn't working. Man: It would be good to not just have the excess resources, but also somebody to put together a check list.</p> <p>Sarah: There's concern that the repairs aren't being processed, resulting in time off school. You're asking if it would be possible to keep critical spares on site. Man: Or alternative contractors. Having a local resource would be valuable. Nothing is happening about it. Sarah: I'm happy to take this up. CH: It would make sense to have somebody on our doorstep, but I'm not sure if it's something we will be able to do. Sarah: lets try and understand a bit more about procurement process. CH: budget constraints. Sarah: I'll take this one up. SS: If Tarland are shut and we don't have lunches, even if high school has excess. I understand we can't rely on parents to provide lunches. Can something be done about this so that we don't have to close. Message could go out that if could parents supply lunches, otherwise the canteen might fill the gap. CH: I'll look for clarity on this, whether or not it is what you want to hear. BR: seems ludicrous that kids cant' be in school whwen food is the issue, surely this is something we should be able to do. CH: I will ask the question. Leona: is there going to be any information about the Dalguise trip? CH: yes, there will be. We'll get that date advised. LW: advised CH that there is a piper for the last day of school. CH took notes. Becki Redmond advised that SS's husband might do it.</p>	
AGENDA		ACTION
8.0	<p>Date of Next Meeting Thank you everyone. Meeting concluded.</p>	