

Aberdour Primary School Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Monday 9th May 2022 7.00pm via Zoom

Minutes by Linsay McDonald

1. **Present:** Gareth Williams (Chair and P6 Rep), Linsay McDonald (Secretary and P1 Rep), Jo Eacott (P2 Rep), Ellen Stewart (P3 Rep), Colin Sykes (P4 Rep), Lottie Ritchie (P5 Rep), Louise Wood (Head Teacher), Gillian Cormack (Principal Teacher), Leanne Sweaton (Acting Principal Teacher), Councillor Dave Dempsey

Apologies: Alison Johnson (Nursery Rep), Janine Muldoon (P7 Rep)

2. Minutes from the last meeting were confirmed and have been emailed to Parent Council members and shared on the Parent Council Facebook page. LW will ask office staff to upload them to the school website.

Actions from last meeting

Wi-Fi issues: LW arranged a visit from the Fife Council IT team who couldn't find any specific issues with connectivity (except in one old laptop) and said that the staff hadn't reported any problems with it. They reported that the school is not currently connected to fibre broadband. LW said that problems connecting to specific events (e.g., the Antarctic exploration event) may have been at the host end or because lots of classes were trying to join at the same time. GW said that the Parent Council would look into Fife Council policy for connecting schools to fibre broadband and it could become an issue we follow up. DD said he will investigate the position of Fife Council with regards to this. He did say the council probably wouldn't step in until there was a specific issue with connectivity.

Drainage in the playground: LW arranged a visit from the council to assess this issue but wasn't sure if this had happened yet as she hadn't had an answer. She will chase this up.

Gym kit: LW said that she hasn't had a chance to action this yet due to continued staff absences before the spring break. She will follow up at the next meeting.

ES commented that parents understand that staffing was extremely difficult before the holidays due to high Covid case numbers and appreciate the effort to include activities this term such as class trips, sports day and classroom visits. This is reflected in the lower number of issues raised by parents with Parent Council reps for discussion at this meeting.

3. Head teacher update

PC Priority 1- School Covid Response Plan: LW reported that all Covid restrictions have now been removed, including, most recently, the need for staff to wear masks. Good hand hygiene is still being encouraged and the school has had hard wired CO2 monitors fitted that will aid window opening for ventilation. There was a good response to the open classroom afternoons and staff are looking forward to discussing what classes are working on with parents. Nursery parents have already been able to visit. The removal of restrictions has allowed sports day, awards ceremonies, the P7 leavers assembly, transition activities and the end of term disco to be planned.

School Attainment: After a question on attainment raised by LR at the last meeting, LW conducted a review of attainment levels in P1, P4 and P7 classes over the last three sessions. She presented figures on this subject, which were discussed by the committee members, and LW commented that she was satisfied that the data showed that classes had remained at a good level in all areas of their learning during Covid. She said that most families engaged well with online learning and that there were significant numbers of pupils who were actually ahead of track this session. If there were specific issues with individual children, these would be discussed and addressed directly with parents. She also said APS is performing beyond the stretch targets for the wider area. Anyone wishing to access specific attainment data can look at the Standards and Qualities report for last session or look out for the one published for this session after the summer break.

P1 Enrolments: LW stressed that it was still too early to decide on class structure or staffing for next session. The school role is right on the tipping point for 6 or 7 classes and there are still several weeks left for this to change, especially with the upcoming release of the new CALA homes. The P1 class will be bigger than previously expected

with a few more placing requests received and is sitting at 22 currently. If there are composite classes these will likely be an even split with 10-12 pupils from each year group. However, it is still possible there may be 7 classes and this will become clearer in mid-June. LW said that it would be very helpful if parents let her know now if there is a chance that their children will not return after the summer holidays. GW asked that Parent Council members repeat this message to parents in their feedback following the meeting. ES suggested updating the school noticeboard with details of the PA and PC committee members as an indicator of an active school community and LW said she would ask the office staff to do this. LW also mentioned that the Parents Association were looking for new members.

Digital Culture: GC reported on the implementation of the digital culture program at APS. Along with Mr Lee, she has carried out a staff audit of strengths and where input is needed and has conducted training with staff on Microsoft Forms and Sway, which teachers have then used with their pupils successfully. Teachers have reported feeling more confident in the use of IT and this will now be extended to the children, with the aim of them becoming digital leaders. GC has applied for the school to receive the Digital Schools Award from Education Scotland.

GW highlighted the City Deal Data Education in Schools program as a potential source of funding for IT resources.

LW said she had some Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) funding to allocate and that she intended to ask the pupils, staff and parents how this could best be used to develop the school e.g., resources for the library, learning through play or digital equipment.

4. PC Priority 2- Safer Routes to School

JE asked on behalf of a parent if another scooter rack could be installed in the playground. LW said she had passed this request to Mrs Ballie and the JRSOs. She said she is also meeting with the JRSOs to discuss a walking school bus from the train station car park to the school.

DD reported that the zebra crossing on main street will be converted to one with pedestrian lights this financial year.

5. PC Priority 3- Improving Diversity at Aberdour

GC said she had received delivery of a new set of books with the theme of celebrating diversity and these are now in the library area for all pupils to access. GW said that now that parents are able to visit the school more freely, diversity could be a good topic to pick up and focus on more with parents next session.

6. AOB

No other business was raised.