

APS Parent Council Meeting | MINUTES



16th January 2023 | 6pm-7.50pm

APS Representatives: L. Manton | S. Easton

Parent Council Members: F. Harrison (Vice Chair) | B. Lie | C. Murray | L. Melville | C. Doherty (Treasurer) | H. MacLaren | H. Greenwood | J. Fyall | R. Swarbrick | Y. Tracey

Apologies: J. Sloan | L. Rooney | S. Hughes | V. Guigou | S. Muir | M McNeil

Standing items

Welcome (new members) & Apologies
Minutes approved
Head teachers report

Discussion lead

F. Harrison
F. Harrison
L. Manton

Staffing

J Hamilton has returned as deputy head teacher. M McNeil is back to teacher status. 2 newly appointed pupil support assistants. Still have one low-hour position to fill.

Book Fair

Option to get book fair at end of March. Pro – to get books for the library. Con – books are expensive and put pressure on parents. Negative experience for pupils who don't get book.

Proposed and agreed– book swap for World Book Day, as an alternative to book fair.

Wider Achievement

Tracker around children's wider achievement to build confidence. Acknowledging that kids have skills and talents beyond the classroom. This will include school excursions to enhance learning, as well as recognising achievements outside of school.

Active Schools Survey – significant number who didn't respond and therefore the results were skewed.

Idea: Include individual personal achievements as part of homework – as a short video or piece of writing.

Looking at ways to track progression.

Communicating Language

ACTION: L Manton to develop glossary of terms that can be pinned in Facebook group and put on website.

Treasurers report

C. Doherty

The new community account has now been set up. The amount raised from raffle was £2330.90.

£3023.10 in old account.

Total of £5354

Follow up items

Discussion lead

Playground fundraising & allocation

S.Easton

Going through Sodexo for changes to playground.

Outdoor learning – storage such as a shed or containers is required.

ACTION: L Manton and S Easton to contact Sodexo to clarify limitations around playground equipment. What does Sodexo need to install? Costs and limitations? Can janitors, parents etc help with painting on grounds?

ACTION: S Easton will gather list of small playground equipment (£1000 has been allocated for playground equipment, including small equipment such as balls and hoops) and send to C Doherty to be purchased with PC funds.

Volunteers for sorting out PC inventory

ACTION: S Hughes, C Murray, J Fyall and L Melville have agreed to look at the equipment, clean, make inventory and see what's missing.

Update on P7 leavers hoodies

ALL

Option explored to switch to Alan Santry from previous company. Nickname can only go on sleeve and quality may not as good. Each item is slightly cheaper (around 30p).

J. Fyall

Decision to stick to previous company as we know it's high quality and the ordering system is straightforward.

PC will subsidise hoodies by £15 instead of buying calculators.

Decline in quality from Alan Santry in general to be explored.

Cycling Scotland brief

ALL

ACTION: L Manton to investigate bikeability and ask for parent volunteers.

ACTION: C. Doherty to contact Alasdair Mcleod at St Andrews University to pick up conversation around Cycling Scotland offering for schools.

L. Manton

Leadership Model Consultation – update

Letter going out to parents tomorrow to provide update on options. Period of engagement and consultation is about to begin. H. MacLaren / C. Doherty

Additional funding opportunities

Amazon Smile – Can set up School PC on Amazon so that with any purchases made a small percentage is given to charity.

ACTION: F. Harrison to check on current status of APS PC charity registration – investigate process to register.

Other options:

- National Lottery Community Fund
- Geographical Funding Fife
- St Andrews Community Fund - 1st round application closed, 2nd round in Easter. Needs to fulfil specific criteria, such as diversity and inclusion. **ACTION:** H. Macaren to contact fund to assess eligibility.
- Murray Library Trust – up to £750. Could be used for bikeability, or school garden. **ACTION:** H Greenwood to provide L Manton with details.
- Learning through landscapes - £500 of equipment from their catalogue. Fund will open soon. Get ideas from pupil council. **ACTION:** H Greenwood to provide L Manton with details. L. Melville
- Free children's play sessions to teach about loose parts aimed at P5,6.

Communication platforms

Somewhere to hold information as a one stop reference point.

Website is updated by L. Manton. Plans to train others, including pupils, in platform.

ACTION: L. Melville to poll on what parents would like included on the school website. L. Manton

Facebook working well with good discussion. Option to change to a page so that posts can be responded to as Parent Council, rather than as individuals.

ACTION: L Manton to get advice from social media and safeguarding team around Facebook pages and website content.

ACTION: L. Melville provide link to L Manton for Fbook group and send out invite via Seesaw.

After-school club provision update

ACTION: L Manton to chase up on progress of after-school provision with Gary Peattie.

Parent forum items

Discussion lead

Behaviour / reward / rules in school

ALL

Parents concerned about disruption in class and what the process is.

There is a policy in place and working group around wellbeing. Taking restorative approach with proactive management plans and working with families. Rules fall into values – care, contribute, succeed.

Looking to acknowledge good behaviour for all children.

School uniforms

Looking to raise standards and set expectations on school uniforms. Reminder on what the uniform includes and what it doesn't.

Additional Item: Scots Poetry Recital

ALL

Parents of the winning pupils will be invited to Scots Poetry Recital and PC can provide refreshments

Outdoor learning

Outdoor learning, including trips to beach, will resume

ALL

Easter Egg Decoration and Hunt

Additional mini-meeting proposed for parent council members to plan.

AGM

ACTION: F. Harrison/L. Melville to check availability.

ALL

ALL

ALL

Other items to go through PC Whatsapp group or future meeting:

Parking provision

Music room – clarify why not used

Parents room

Local school trips

Use of paint in class

Refreshments at school parties

Xmas agenda - feedback

Sports day plans

L. Melville

H. MacLaren

H. MacLaren

L. Melville

F. Harrison

ALL

Parent Council 2023

Discussion lead

Chairperson position

ALL

Secretary position

ALL

Structure of council group

ALL

Review constitution

ALL

Meeting Close

AOB & Summary of actions

Additional comments:

Any items not covered within this meeting will be taken away for follow up if appropriate, or carried forward onto the next PC agenda.