

Abernethy Primary School - Parent Council Meeting

Meeting - Wednesday 6 November 2013

Attendees –

Paula Morrison (Head Teacher), Morag Hodgkinson (Principal Teacher), Fiona Stewart (Chairman), Marian Fyfe (Treasurer), Sue Smith (Secretary), Anne McElnea, Gordon Miller, Jill Donnachie, Jill Young, Karen Jerrard Dinn, Kirsty Baird, Lorraine Kinnear, Lynn Mitchell, Nicky Coulter, Rachel Shepherd, Sharon Smith, Alistair Robinson, Alison Craig.

Apologies – Katie McAleese, Mel Davies, Senga Robertson.

1 - Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

There were no changes to the previous minutes and these were agreed.

In relation to the use of Parent Council funds at Christmas (agreed last meeting) it was noted that an initial £200 is to be given to the school to purchase food for the children's parties. If this amount is not sufficient then Mrs Morrison is to let us know. The money is to be given in the form of a Tesco gift card to make the shopping easier for the school.

The £50 donation to the Pavilion for a key to enable the school use of the facilities has been made.

In relation to the request made for a donation by the Parks Project, Fiona Stewart has also now checked with PKC to seek their view. It is thought that any contribution made by the Parent Council would constitute "onward gifting" of funds which had been donated / raised for the specific purpose of enhancing and helping the school and as such a gift would not be appropriate. (NB - The Parks Project were successful in raising the required monies to fund the second phase of parks improvements.)

2 – Head Teacher Report

Mrs Morrison spent some time going through the "Evidence 2 Success" survey results for Abernethy PS and its cluster. (Parent Council members will be emailed a copy of the slides – for others information on the survey and results can be found at <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/5883/Evidence2Success-Surveys>)

Staffing changes

- Mrs MacDonald is now back 4 days a week with Mrs Hepburn taking up the remaining day
- Mrs L. Robertson is currently on maternity leave and therefore her post of RCCT (reduced class contact time) teacher and mentor cover teacher is being covered by Mr Greenall. Miss Kennedy held this post but has moved onto a different authority closer to home.

School News

- A successful Jog Scotland event was held at Errol PS
- Sports clubs continue this term include: Football (P6 & P7), Football for P5 at lunchtime, Basketball (P3) and new Games club for P1 & P2 on a Friday morning.

- Glee club has started at lunchtimes
- The P1 curriculum evening– sharing with parents the process of ‘Jolly Phonics’ how we teach sounds, start writing and reading - was very positive and had an excellent turn out
- P1 questionnaire relating to transition into school was given to parents – all positive responses, other comments given however did not always relate to the purpose of the questionnaire.
- P6 & P7 had a very successful open afternoon showcasing their learning relating to the Titanic project. They developed a museum. As it was so successful it was opened to the community the following week and feedback was excellent
- P1 & P2 also held a successful open afternoon to present their Fairyland topic. Classroom based activities, displays and even baking all went down very well indeed.
- P3 have started a ‘formal’ Forest school approach to their outdoor learning sessions with Chris Childe (Forest School Leader). This will run over a 10 week block.
- P7 have their citizenship day on 8th November as part of the transition arrangements for attending High School.
- During the Parent Contact sessions a travelling book fair will be available and Mrs Morrison asked that any parents able to help with this contact her. Samples of the Christmas card fundraiser organised by pupils will also be on show and parental questionnaires will be issued for completion.
- On 28th November Abernethy will have its Health Promoting Schools (HPS) accreditation, led by HPS committee members.
- A school Christmas Fayre will take place on the 29th November with activities in each room and the community café launch with Glee club singing.
- P1 & P2 nativity play will take place on the 17th December with afternoon and evening performances.
- Sponsored Skipathon – so far approx. £1000 has been raised and not all sponsorship forms are back yet.
- School will shortly receive a new bike shelter and scooter rack to help with promoting their use in travel to school.

Nursery News

- Nursery curriculum evening was held on 2 October for new starts and existing parents.
- Main development this year is their outdoor area, offers of help, or any resources much appreciated.

Key school development areas for this year:

- Science- rich tasks
- Maths – developing planning approaches to ensure meeting learners needs
- Enhancing the learning culture – moderation / buddying with Dunbarney PS
- Creating a literacy rich environment – focus on writing
- Developing global links – P6 living communities project (film making about their village and culture).
- Start consultation re homework – next Parent Council meeting (Feb)

The school’s engagement in the Parks Project Sensory Area was discussed. PKC are looking for community engagement and also for a commitment to maintain the planting if shrubs etc. are to be involved (initial design was for the sensory area to have no planting). Abernethy Horticultural Society is able to help with advice for planning the area to ensure it is low maintenance. It was agreed that the School Eco Committee would wish to be involved with the area on an on-going basis but will require support from the community and parents to maintain it, and the school would not wish to be solely responsible for upkeep. It was agreed that Abernethy Environmental Association will look at arranging an informal parent’s support group to assist with this.

4 – Parent Council Fundraising

It was decided that rather than try and hold / organise two events in quick succession, we should do just one event and do it well. After discussion it was agreed to postpone the coffee morning and focus on the 80s disco night on Sat 8th March 2014.

A sub-group of the council who could meet more often and co-ordinate the fundraising was formed, with members being:

Fiona Stewart, Lynn Mitchell, Lorraine Kinnear, Kirsty Baird, Ann McElnea and Rachel Shepherd.

5 – Finance Update

In the YTD (up to end of October) the Parent Council have had the following income and expenditure:

Income:

Peel2Save 2012/2013	£35.00
Peel2Save 2013/2014	£560.00
PKC payment	£428.00
TOTAL	£1,023.00

Expenditure:

Library Shelving	£1,000.00
Book People (P7 leaving presents)	£36.00
Powrie Park Pavilion: key to access	£50.00
TOTAL	£1086.00

Bank balance still remains very healthy with a balance of just over £1800. Accounts for previous year are still to be audited once the handover from previous treasurer is fully completed.

6 – AOB

- Fiona Stewart attended the recent Parent Council Chairpersons' Group. Minutes were forwarded out to members of Parent Council by email.
- The issue of healthy snacks was raised. It was agreed that the school would issue a reminder to parents that the school is a Health Promoting School and that healthy snacks are important. (NB – this was done on the November school newsletter).
- Alastair Robinson noted that the Community Council would be purchasing the Christmas tree for outside the school this year. Previous year's trees have been donated.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm