

Abernethy Primary School - Parent Council Meeting
Wednesday 12 June 2013

Attendees - Mrs Hodgkinson, Fiona Stewart, Katie McAleese, Karen Jerrard-Dinn, Fiona Duncan, Lorraine Kinnear, Marian Fyfe, Lynn Mitchell, Claire Stoddart, Kirsty Baird,

Apologies - Mrs Morrison, Gordon Miller, Anne McElnea.

1 – Comments on previous minutes

There were no amendments to the last meeting's minutes, but updates on a couple of points are:

1a) Peel2save

- We have paid the remaining balance for 2012 to the Peel2save rep.
- Do we want to run Peel2save again this year? All agreed it had been a successful fund raising scheme.
- Claire is to ask the rep for an update on the start/end dates for this year's scheme and also whether there is any change to the businesses included this year.
- We will raise this at the next PC meeting (August AGM), looking for a volunteer to run this.

1b) Finances – PC treasurer

- Tim and Marian still to arrange an accounts handover to allow Marian to take over as PC treasurer.

2 - HT Update

2a) Annual report

Mrs Hodgkinson ran through the overview of school experiences for the 2012-2013 session, including curriculum events, trips, clubs, sports and fund raising. This is detailed in the attached document.

2b) Development plan

This was discussed in some detail, both from this session and plans for next session. The plan is attached in full, but some of the key points which were discussed were:

- Curriculum developments – Mrs Hodgkinson confirmed that there would be more teachers from Abernethy linking with peers in other primary schools to agree measures of consistency and moderation across the curriculum. This has already been happening in eg maths, but will widen out.
- In maths, the focus continues to be on raising attainment. Eg "measuring" is a topic that has been highlighted as one where pupils have difficulty putting knowledge into practice, so this will be one of the areas of focus. Fiona asked how the school could gauge attainment, given that the curriculum for excellence no longer uses levels of achievement. Mrs Hodgkinson confirmed that the school does still do benchmarking and that on comparison with other schools, she was very satisfied with her current P4 class attainment.
- Science is another key focus, continuing from this session to next.
- The school aims to increase involvement in IT work across teaching staff.
- Bounce Back approaches will continue to form a key part of the school's future.

3 – Visions & Values

Mrs Hodgkinson outlined the updated Visions & Values which have been created following input from staff, pupils and parents. These will be unveiled at the Garden Party, Friday 21 June.

4 – Access to the pavilion

Katie McAleese suggested the school could benefit from a key to the pavilion, in return for a donation. This was agreed - many of the outdoor learning experiences take place in Powrie Park and access to toilets would be very helpful. £50 was agreed, the PC will cover this cost. Katie is to confirm who the cheque is payable to.

5 – AGM in August – how to attract new members?

To try to ensure as many parents as possible come to the AGM, we agreed the following:

- Kirsty will talk about the PC to “new” parents at the session for children starting nursery next session.
- Claire and Karen will do the same at the nursery to P1 transition morning.
- All PC members attending the Garden Party will have badges (!) and flyers to advertise the PC and the August AGM. Katie will produce badges.

6 – AOB

PE & Sports

1. Some parents had been disappointed with the format of this year’s sports day. Mrs Morrison outlined the reasons for the changed format this year –
 - a. Mrs Rofe used to run the sports day. The school’s new PE specialist, Mr Bustin, had only joined the school the week before so there was not time to recreate the usual sports day.
 - b. The school had been concentrating on the move back into the new school, less focus than usual for sports day.
 - c. Lack of playground space meant less room for potted sports, usually done in the morning of sports day, so this year’s event was a combination of potted sports and traditional races.

Mrs Morrison confirmed that there is no intention to reduce the competitive nature of sports day, the changed format was due to the reasons outlined above. The children had been asked for their feedback on this year’s sports day – this will be taken into account for next year’s event.

2. *Post meeting Mrs Morrison advised that despite the school not having had a dedicated sports specialist (although it was recognised that Mrs Hepburn did gain her PE certificate this year), the school did compete and participate in all PKC-run events.* It is hoped that through a combination of Mr Bustin being allocated to the school, as well as continued parental support, the school will be able to offer a range of sporting clubs across the classes, as well as attend specific events/competitions with other schools (and be able to train for such events).

Other specialist teachers

- Mrs Hodgkinson confirmed that at the moment it’s unlikely that the school will benefit from an art specialist next session. All agreed that this was disappointing.
- *Post meeting, Mrs Morrison confirmed that the school will have a music specialist for all of the 2013/14 school year and that it’s usual to only have 1 specialist in addition to the PE teacher. That said, Mrs Morrison is investigating whether it’s possible to share music and art specialists with another school (ie half a year of each).*
- Fiona S asked if it would be helpful for the PC to write to PKC to voice their concerns? Mrs Hodgkinson said she’d let the PC know if so.

Support for learning

Claire asked whether support for learning was only for children who needed help to progress, or if support was extended to children who need extra work to keep stretching them. Mrs Hodgkinson confirmed that while the ideal would be to ensure all children could benefit from support, due to time/resource constraints, the focus was on those children who needed support to improve their attainment, rather than those who would benefit from support to exceed expected standards.

7 - Next meeting

- The next meeting is the AGM on Wednesday 28 August, at 7pm. Claire confirmed she’s standing down from the PC as she’s moving to Texas! PC members thanked Claire for her contribution and wished her well in the US.