

MINUTES OF MEETING

ALLOWAY PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL

17 January 2023

Attendance

Fiona Meney, Lauren Miller, Laura Cameron, Catriona Andrews, Emma Jamieson, Janine Leonard, Kasia Munro, Kirsty Rae.

Apologies

Emma Ledger, Claire Campbell, Julie, Aiden Hogarth, Kerry, Fiona McGhee

Minutes of last meeting dated 28.11.22

Read and approved By Mrs Meney, Mrs Cameron & Mrs Andrews previously.

Head Teachers Report

Mrs Meney thanked the PTA for their recent help including the Xmas cards, the activities, the movie night, etc.

P7 have have had their cluster dance at Belmont which was super. The infants got to the Gaiety, eventually. Overall, it was a busy, tiring but fun filled Xmas.

The school is straight into Scottish fortnight now, Miss Rainey, acting PT P7 has taken this on has her first big project and has some amazing plans and processes which include each class learning a different skill. As people are now allowed into school, P5 had a visitor reciting some burns quotes and poems and he wore a kilt. There will also be highland dancing & music workshops for all. The school was asked for some children to attend some Burns events. A local Cllr advised a Scottish man was opening a school in Kenya on 25.01.23 and was looking for something Scottish to show at the opening so our kids are going to record some Scottish stuff for them to play. P7 were at Burns Cottage today, and all classes will recite their poems on 27.01.23 in school.

The Quality Assurance is continuing in school just now, carrying out learning & tracking conversations with teachers. Looking at the child, the class, etc. Mrs Meney & Mrs Miller are sitting with class teachers and talking to them regarding this and are pleased with how it is progressing so far, it will continue over the next few weeks.

There is an optional, additional, parents evening phone call coming up soon due to report cards now being shorter, info to follow on this.

Regarding Parent pay and school lunches, bear with us please. Mrs Meney advised it was brought in with little notice and is a learning curve for all. Teachers are assisting with selections just now while it is bedding in so no child will miss out. Two courses are covered with the school ticket but if you want 3 there needs money in the child's account before selecting it. More information will follow as we learn. As it is the school Burns dinner next week, a Themed day will be added for selection and the kids will choose their food at the time of service. Could parents please fill out parent pay even if the child is having packed lunch meantime as if the parent doesn't do it the teachers have to which then ensures on checking that all children have had a meal of some description.

The Titanic trip deposit option will follow soon and other trips as soon as possible to allow parents to option to pay, in instalments, half and half, as a whole, whatever suits the family best.

HMIE, Her Majesty's Inspectors, were expected around 2020 but Covid held this up. It will therefore be due anytime and the school will get approximately 12 business days' notice, APS hopes to prepare as much as possible just now in advance. Staff are currently preparing, gathering information and getting organised, hoping the hard work is done and it just a matter of adding to it later on.

The CPO, Child Protection Officer from South Ayrshire Council visited the school last week to look at the files, policies, etc and ensure they are all in order and to see if they could make any suggestions, etc moving forward, this went well. Mrs Meney invited her in to do this and was pleased with the outcome.

The Nursery had their annual Environmental Health Inspection which went very well.

Mrs Meney is looking at forward planning, tracking & assessment with staff to see what is working, what to change moving forward, what is expected by the government, what other schools are doing, etc.

Strike action is continuing with the next strike day for APS on 25 Jan 2023, then 28th February and 1st March. Hopefully a resolution can be found before then.

February holidays coming soon. Mrs Haymarch has returned from maternity leave and is now working part time on a Monday & Fridays in the Infant Department doing Learning Support.

EYC - Mrs Miller

As Mrs Meney mentioned the Environmental Health Department had a good visit which was brief and this was viewed as a good point!

Care plan appointments have been arranged and sent out. Staff will do 1 group per day to see if this works any better than previous methods. There is a stay and play evening coming up this term at 6pm on 21 Feb.

Peep has re started with Gillian Munro, it is well attended. Book bug has started and information has been sent out. EYC has a trip to The Burns Centre on 6 & 8 Feb to tie in with their Scottish topic. Forest schools is continuing, will be developed and will make use of Rozelle.

Talk boast training has been done by all EYC Staff and they are working on an implementation plan.

The school has been offered funding from the Local Authority; they will match whatever the school puts in for the purchase of sensory equipment. They already have some smaller things and are now looking into what bigger things are available. The school hopes to put in £2000, and the Local Authority should do the same, meaning a total spend of £4000.

P1 registration opened yesterday and closes on Friday this week. The school will look at transitions once they have all the details, hoping to start at the end of Jan which should be plenty of time for our kids and kids out with our EYC to come and visit.

Active schools, last term there was a rugby tournament for P6 & P7, which was a super day. The sports leaders from Belmont came in last term and spent time with our kids.

Mr Hall will take P6 & P7 for football again, hopefully starting around 30 Jan along with other activities restarting around then for an 8-week block which takes us up to the Easter hols. Mr Gribben has been e mailed to ask if he could take the P5 football again.

Catlin Anderson, Active schools' worker, is back after sickness and holidays and is coming into the School on Thurs to look at the active sports club options. Our sports leaders in P7 are taking a boys & a girls football tournament. There is also an Athletics tournament coming up which Mrs McCarroll is taking lunchtime classes for kids to practice and record results to see who will be entered into what event as

spaces will be limited, information to follow. The Junior Duke (P1), will be taken by Mrs Parkinson at lunchtime club with activities to do at home with parents too.

Chair Report

David Oliver has not been in touch to date with the school or the PTA, Laura may be able to source materials for a trim trail but Mitie need professional plans and drawings done. Mrs Meney has asked love to learn outdoors to visit and advise but they can't come out and visit the school until June. We will try and information gather meantime and Kirsty Rae suggested that whoever we go with, to remember and order through the Council as we will be able to reclaim the VAT & save 20%.

Laura has still to talk to George at Tempest as she hopes to arrange a form of feedback from parents first. Discussed possibly Spring for next PTA newsletter.

Xmas cards raised £670 (mostly orders of mugs), movie night was great, it was free to attend but the tuck made £482.15, PTA spent £270.21 on it which left £211 profit. Another movie night will be arranged for free as there was a technical issue on the night. It was £700 for the two sittings; snack boxes were cute and the system used to give them out was great. Next time PTA to look at a pay what you can to attend out of interest to see what donations they get as opposed to a set fee for all.

Xmas jumpers and party clothes rails went well and the school were able to use some of them as well. Happy to continue this and school can keep in storage for next year and for Halloween outfits which will start this year's rails off. The school uniform rail is going well too.

The Night Before Xmas campaign went well in school and Mrs Meney would like to support this again, Laura advised that there may be other things they could do throughout year too. Laura advised that the Poverty Improvement Policy looked ok she couldn't think of anything the PTA would want to add as she felt everything was covered.

Mrs Meney reiterated that the school have methods, avenues and ways in which they may be able to help people if they ask her. She does not want any child to miss a trip or event or to go without if it can be helped but she needs to be made aware. Please ask for info and assistance at any time.

The Titanic fund for P5 has raised over £800 to date due to Xmas singing and a couple of companies making donations of £100.

Mrs Meney will forward the first draft of the Communications Policy to the PTA for an initial consultation.

The recent Calendar of events Mrs Meney sent was received well and she will look at updating this monthly it was easy to follow and use and was appreciated.

The Parking issues continue. Mrs Meney feels that Ayrshire Roads Alliance needs to deal with this by making a school zone with no parking during school hours. Ayrshire Roads Alliance has not yet replied to Mrs Meney or to Mrs Cameron so we can only continue to send more e mails meantime and the junior road safety officers will work away on this too, banners ordered for the playground.

Fundraising

Discos will be held in school on 07/02/23 one for infants (1 hour) and one after that for uppers (1h 15mins). Previously the PTA hired a company to do the disco and they did a tuck. Mrs Meney asked if PTA could continue to choose snacks with low e numbers please and this was agreed. Not to be held too late, maybe same as movie night shows and possibly arrange to prepay sweets and drinks in some shape or form to avoid kids having money on the on the night.

Laura advised Mrs Meney that the book fayre money was available for the school to use - £1000 to spend on books.

Laura suggested we prioritise fundraising at the next meeting as we were short on time but maybe a wish list from the school would be helpful and the PTA could have a look at what to aim for.

The Pupil Council sit the first Friday in February and it may be useful if a few members of the PTA attend to discuss what we do, etc.

The PTA have spent £2177 and have a current balance of £2485 in their account.

AOCB

None raised.

Date & Time of Next Meeting Wednesday 15 Feb 2023 at earlier time of 6pm in APS staff room.