

MINUTES OF MEETING – 28/11/22

ALLOWAY PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL

Attendance

Michelle Gass, Julie Grant, Catriona Edgar, Fiona Meney, Lauren Miller, Emma Jamieson, Claire Campbell, Aiden Hogarth, Katanyha Munro, Fiona McGhee, Krzysztofa Krawczye.

Apologies

Laura Cameron (Chair)

Minutes of last meeting dated 04/10/2022

Amended that biggest profit was made from tote bags & tea towels and not the Xmas cards as stated.

Approved.

Matters arising

Santa will be Bill Grant from the rotary club.

The grotto will be open on 19 Dec and will require to be set up one evening after school w/c 12 Dec by PTA.

We will hold the trim trail until the new year and if no word by then from David Oliver, can look at other avenues.

Laura Cameron to meet with George from tempest photography to discuss possible options as he is keen to keep the contract and would appreciate a conversation before we look elsewhere.

Head Teachers Report

Welcome & thank you for work so far given from Mrs Meney, including the xmas card/gifts, movie night. etc. Great to get together with kids again post covid and have these treats/events.

Parents evening went very well and it was good to have the P7 helpers and parents in school. One class to go as teacher currently off but is due back soon.

Management Team carrying out Quality Assurance visits in classrooms at present and will consider future planning. They are focusing on numeracy this time and are delighted so far with what they have found and they have no concerns to date other than to continue the good work. Whole staff training delivered by Miss Gilligan who is back in school on emotional development, which will help with the nurture work already carried out in school. Training from Jackie Blair, Quality Improvement officer in SAC on Outdoor Learning will be given this week.

In New Year, there will be further input on Talk for Writing given to staff by Mrs Daubney who is now a Talk for Writing consultant. The school did do some work around the World Cup after consideration, and the work is being delivered age appropriately and looks at workers' rights, the building of the stadium, the controversy, the time of it, etc. The school are looking at it through an RRS lens.

Children in Need was fun and surprisingly raised more than before despite the school not asking for a set amount.

The school is keen to balance fun for the kids with asking for reasonable donations, esp. in current circumstances.

Mrs Meney felt very privileged to take some of our musicians to a recent concert in the church for Ukraine. One side of the church was reserved for Ukrainians living in the area and the concert included the Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra as well as other schools. It proved to be a very special occasion and at the end some of the Ukrainians got up and sang their national anthem and Flower of Scotland which was quite emotional.

The school has lots of committees back up and running P4-P7. Staff have taken ownership of them and they give kids a voice to try to make a difference. There is a Pupil Council, House Captains who wish to restart house points, and have ordered eco-friendly tokens and collection tubes to be delivered anytime. A knitted Santa has been given into the school and will be raffled off to pupils at the Christmas lunch day at 20p a ticket on day. A self-evaluation "How Good is our School" will be undertaken firstly by the house captains then it will be rolled out across whole school. The JRSO (junior road safety) will working on parking, the eco committee is helping with the recycling clothing rail in the library which will help with the climate change discussions with visitors to assembly recently. They have carried out a Litter pick in school grounds and hope to get out and into the community as well. The Social Awareness Group will support the Tots Christmas party in the library this year and the digital leaders will attempt to gain a digital award which we don't have as yet. Both the Sports leaders and the Developing Young Workforce has been invited to Ayr United on a fact-finding visit which they will then report back to the rest of the school. The Committees meets monthly at 2pm at the end of each month.

The school have their Christmas decorations up with the real tree arriving on 1st December. The reindeers have been in for a visit on 22/11/22 (as it is cheaper in Nov than it is in December). This year the whole school got to see them as there were no covid bubbles or restrictions.

Christmas parties are coming up, the food has been bought and Mrs Meney asked for a contribution from PTA if at all possible. Snack will be a party bag this year as they will just have had school dinner and previously a lot of food was wasted. Another silent disco with take away pizza has been arranged for the P7's as they loved it last year.

The Christmas lunch is coming up, also the panto. Mrs Miller is organising the Nativity this year and practice is going well, it will be held in the church and they will look for parent helpers nearer the time. There will be 2 tickets per night per family on offer and on 12/12/22 they will have the school dress rehearsal, any parents who can't make church can attend but numbers may be limited.

EYC stay and play is being organised at the church, Gillian is doing Peep in school over the last 4 weeks and it has been well attended. The EYC will be doing their Nativity on Wednesday 14th in school with parents welcome to that as well. Monday 19/12/22 will be their Christmas party including a "special visitor" and on 21.12.22 they will be having a movie & munchie day wearing pj's if they wish.

The Active Schools coordinator came back to work today and will come out and meet the school soon re next year's activities. Meantime sports leaders are in school from Belmont and are helping to deliver PE lessons and lunchtime clubs with Mrs McCarrell. Kids have also had coaching from Ayr Rugby Club on Fridays and after school clubs etc still being done this session by teachers, these include reading, fitness, yoga, choir, football, etc and more to come next year hopefully.

The Orchestra (Miss Connell now a mum and on mat leave), is being led by Ms Burns, violin teacher who is keen to get back to pre-covid times and standards. Mr Bird is back to restart a brass band. As the P5-P7 kids during covid missed out, they are basically starting from scratch.

Staffing - Mrs Wylie in P4 has been off but is due back soon hopefully and there has been an odd absence in the EYC which needed temp cover.

Miss Craig in P5 decided to give up the post due to personal circumstances but Mrs Goodwin was able to take over for 4 of the days with Mrs Stewart continuing to teach one day a week with the class.

Mrs Meney would like to start discussing Policies during the next meeting as she has updated the Child Protection Policy in line with government changes.

The Poverty Proofing Policy will be shared and pass to PTA for circulation – it is a new Policy which every school now has to provide and will focus on the cost of school day, who can afford what, what school can do to keep things affordable as things are becoming more expensive.

Policies will be updated as and when they require to be changed/updated.

Parents views are more important now than ever, school is looking for ideas to help with money saving if/where/when possible, e.g. Giving parents notice of events so they have time to save, the P5 titanic trip was put to the parent vote, and was a huge yes! Fundraising ideas always welcome. If people are struggling, please talk to Mrs Meney confidentially as it is the only way the school can consider/offer help and assistance.

Communication – it is frustrating for all just now as there are several different methods currently in place Mrs Meney would like to try and sort it with help of PTA and parent feedback. Pre covid letters were sent but there was always some got lost, etc. During covid no letters were allowed and it was all electronic, this proved hard to keep on top of and sometime access for parents. It is much easier for staff if permission slips are done online as one button converts these into an excel spreadsheet which also saves a lot of time, but this only works if parents are able/willing to complete which hasn't been very successful to date. Hence some letters have been reintroduced. The Office can end up phoning around 10 people per class to chase permissions when using online forms. The Expressions app is not always signed up to, updated in every case, delivered in every case but as the Office are not being notified at the time, they can't check contact information to rectify. It would be good if we could reissue, school wide, the Expressions app and where this is not possible, an automatic e mail is then sent. Mrs Meney will reissue. Sometimes thigs can be copied onto Seesaw but only if it is not confidential. Mrs Meney will create a Communications Policy

which the PTA can share moving forward. It was highlighted that the Expressions app can be used to notify the Office if/when a child is absent. Teachers continue to use seesaw meantime and if parents have any issues not getting something please check with the office. The new Policy should be user friendly, possibly bullet points and subject heading would be useful on Expressions correspondence when possible. Mrs Meney will consider a calendar in her quarterly newsletter which might help, as some teachers have been posting on seesaw or posting a reminder which is also helpful, perhaps a monthly calendar per Class could be posted? It was noted that once in Expressions, if you open a message and want to save, highlight it you can tap on the flag at top right corner which will then turn red and be saved and visible if you tap on the flag icon at the top of the screen in the middle of the row which might help moving forward as well. If anyone has money stuck in the I pay lunch money folder there is a way to have it transferred to trips or refunded, info to follow on how to do this.

Chair Report

The xmas cards/gift fundraiser has ended and raised £670 profit.

The Halloween outfit swap shop went well.

New to you xmas jumpers/outfits being collected in library already if anyone can use them, please visit and take one.

Upcoming -Xmas movie night & tuck will take place in school on Monday 05/12/22, and 230 kids have signed to attend with 189 of those having ordered the snacks. Cat and Julie to buy goodies asap popcorn & sweets, kids will bring their own juice on the night. They will then need help to make up the snack bags before Monday night. We have enough helpers on night and the risk assessment has been completed.

Fundraising – A potential date for a quiz night in January has been put on hold as it can be an expensive time for people so discos for valentine's day can be arranged for Wed 08/02/22 one for Infants & then one after for upper school with a tuck shop a let will have to be put in for this and potentially have a summer fair in May 2023.

AOCB

A DVD recording of nativity and school shows was raised but as the school does not have permission for EVERY CHILD it could not be done this year but potentially can ask parents in future then sell the DVDs to fundraise. The P7 year book was revisited and also a book for each class with their photos from seesaw as a memory book to be considered.

The Xmas party food bill comes to £200.46, and Mrs Meney asked if the PTA could contribute to this expense at all? Treasurer requested the Panto bus invoice for our records.

Date & Time of Next Meetings

Tuesday 17 January 2023 @ 6.15 pm

Wednesday 15 February 2023 @ 6.15 pm

Tuesday 18 April 2023 @ 6.15 pm
Wednesday 31 May 2023 @ 6.15 pm

Staff room of APS