

Parent Council meeting – 1 February 2023 – 6.30 pm

Attendees:

Jane Burns (JB), Liz Farmer (LF), Louise Hale (LH), Rachel Battilana (RB), Katriona Davidson (KD), Iain McDonald (ID), Gordon McKinnie (GK), Catriona Ferguson (CF), Fiona Whittet (FW), Counsellor David Illingworth (DI), Morag Hodgkinson (MH)

Intros were made around the attendees.

Apologies: Kirsty Brown

Minutes and matters arising from last meeting

- *LF: After school provision:*
 - FW: letter ready to go out to parents to gauge interest. Upshot is we need a new committee and two people need to take on the role of running the club. We won't know until we have gauged interest. Breakfast club is the initial plan. Letter asks what initial interest would be in and 3 people needed to have a minimum quorum to manage and two paid members of staff to run it for the kids.
 - KD: interested in helping. Need to see what is needed to be able to make a commitment beyond that.
 - Lisa Rooke / Michael may be interested. **Action: FW to email out letter to gauge interest**
- *LF: Social media post on vandalism:*
 - FW: nothing since then. Things previously thought to have been stolen have been found.
- *LF: publicising the fundraising from the raffle*
 - LF: Crier article coming out. RB has details of monies left to spend.
 - RB: SSE have said they might give us match funding and they would like to take a photo (likely internal SSE advertising)
 - FW: there was a photo and story in PA before Christmas
 - JB: It would be good if she could publicise on social media the information provided to the paper. Some might have seen it, others might not. This is important that we put something back out for donors / sponsors to know the total raised, what has been bought and know the difference it has made to the school especially if we would like to do something similar again. (JB will tag businesses.)
 - LF: What do we need?
 - JB: Commentary from head teacher, total raised, what it has allowed you to buy, and some recognition.
 - **FW: Action: FW will get photo and send with what went to the paper to Jane.**
 - **Action: JB will publicise this more on social media**
- *LF: get a card reader. This was done.*

Headteacher's report

- *Digital update:*
 - All classes in the school are using these on a weekly basis (other than P1 who are still using ipads)

- Mr Sumpster taken on the role of digital lead and will be attending some related courses which should lead to further resources being obtained for use by the children.
- Digital framework has been created that outlines what all teachers need to be providing in this space to support digital literacy / learning (this is included in the term planning documents shared with parents)
- *Pupil equity funding (PEF)*
 - The Scottish government gives an allocation of funding to schools depending on free school meals access / SIMD / ACORN (post code areas of deprivation). All schools receive some funding. It can be used for specific targeted interventions and more 'universal' benefits that help all of the children.
 - Monies allocated March – March. Abernethy - £9,800 – should be spent or carried forward (preference is to spend). Committed £7,800 to date.
 - Examples include: seesaw usage, specific resources for additional support needs, support the cost of the school day (e.g. trips, buses, entry to learning experiences), play resources, YARK programme (reading assessment), Talk Boost (oracy skills improvement)
 - This should be known about by everyone ie knowing what the school already does. Hoping to get a 'healthy' PEF budget after March.
- *Horizon*
 - Already looking at classes for next year.
 - P1 & nursery registration open. Council is allowing for a further year of deferment. Could impact P1 numbers. May is the deadline to know this so watch this space. Roughly looking similar to this year as things stand at the moment.
 - Looking forward to welcoming families next week for another performance. Opportunity for kids to continue to develop their skills.
 - There was a request from Counsellor Illingworth as to when the electric parking provision will be up and running.
 - **Action: FW to confirm when this will be operational.**
 - Those outside the school will be able to use it within Abernethy. Costs not yet known.

Finance report (RB)

- See finance report for the detailed figures.
- Laptops: 10 bought for the school. £500 on devices for the nursery (tablets, talking and listening devices)
- £428 left to spend
- FW: The school is trying to buy adaptors for headphones to go into the devices (6 pairs per classroom).
- Thanks to JB and those who donated time and effort for the raffle.
- Other fundraising efforts: see finance report
- Future spend items: see finance report
- Easyfundraising: this has dwindled. Louise will take it on.
- Possible estate agents donated £150 to the Parent Council, they give us £25 every time they sell a house in Abernethy.
- SumUp device: it does take some money as a percentage of each transaction but is useful when people don't have cash and needed in this day and age.

- LF: does anyone know about the windfarm thing?
- DI: Binn own two of the turbines – this has the capacity to generate a huge amount of cash for the village. There is going to be a demand for good projects to use this. I think they are looking at three communities getting together and looking at projects within those communities.
- LF: any org can apply for £2k a year? Who is going to be on the panel to award grants
- DI: they are doing this by 26 Feb. Good fun. Need to come up with good projects to spend the money on and organise them properly.

AOB:

- *Questions asked of the parent council:*
 - LF: Raffle money – already addressed above
 - LF: School opening times and when staffed - playground
 - FW: Not obliged to have anyone on playground duty before 9 am unless getting a school bus. Mrs Anderson, usually, or another person on the gate (since covid) and continuing.
 - MH: Always had taxi children provided for. Since covid and better practice it has been ten to 9. Children can be in the playground before then as the playground is open (only locked 9 – 3.15).
 - JB: There has been no one for James (taxi). (He leaves at 8.48 typically.) Concerned that no one is there to ensure he goes into school.
 - MH: the taxi driver should wait. There should be someone there at ten to 9.
 - **FW: Action: We will double check this with Mrs Anderson and FW / MH cover where needed. They will follow up and get back to JB.**
 - FW: comm to parents was children can be in the playground from 8.40 but without supervision, but asked that this didn't include P1 kids.
 - LF: There is a school parent in a cover band doing a fundraiser for the school on 19 May in the Williamson Hall. **We need to start promoting that.**
 - LF: Any other fundraisers?
 - LF: the parent council will contribute to the cubs / scouts day – this needs further thought. **Action: to arrange a meeting to determine how best to contribute to that**
 - FW: It would be nice to ask the children what they would like for their end of year celebration (keen to keep local and not expensive, but fun!). FW will be following up on this.
 - FW: P7 Parent Council have already donated to their yearbook and trying to keep costs for this as low as possible. P7s have opted for a day out to Willowgate (they can all fit in the minibus which keeps cost low) and another for a day of free fun at the beach and a sleepover at school.
 - RB: Parent Council could pay for diesel for the minibus trips.

Next meeting

Thursday 4 May – in person meeting in school