

Minutes of Meeting
Kingswells Parent Council Meeting
Kingswells School

Date & Time: Monday 14th January 2019, 6.30pm

1. **Present:** Moira MacIver, Aileen McNair, Sarah Christie (Chair), Gillian Graham (Secretary), Ashleigh Cameron, Lindsay Watson, Lesley Grant, Jen Smith, Jillian Fordyce, Matt Neal, Anne Goss (Treasurer), Emmanuel Okoye Obiodada

Apologies: Fiona Allan, Heidi Aylmer, Steve Delaney (Councillor)

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Approved by Anne Goss and seconded by Ashleigh Cameron

3. **Parent Council Business**

Constitution – Sarah to ask Gillian Millar send out to Parent Body giving them 1 week to make any comments or recommendations for changes.

GDPR/Register/Forms – Forms to be signed in order for PTC to use e-mail address for PTC business. Any PC members still needing to sign forms can collect /return them via the school office.

Reporting Structure - School received 54 responses to this survey regarding the change to reporting structure. There were very few concerns, these were dealt with by telephone conversations between SMT and individual parents.

The whole school use of Class Dojo was introduced to share learning with parents. There is a whole school approach in place which takes account of the age of the child. In early years most of the learning is shared by teachers leading to pupils undertaking this independently by upper stages.

Pupils are reflecting on their learning on a weekly basis and it can be seen that they are improving their understanding of how well they have learned and what they need to do next in their learning. Research tells us that this makes a significant impact on pupil progress in learning. Parents should comment back on the learning trying to make reference to the learning.

In combination with Class Dojo the annual written report in the proposed new format will provide sufficient information and detail for parents to understand the level of their child's learning and the next steps needed within specific subject areas. The

new reporting format should allow for greater personalisation about individual's pupil learning.

Class Dojo - Whilst the school are seeing the benefits of Class Dojo in sharing the learning of pupils and developing a home school relationship to support children's learning there are also some concerns about the parental use of Class Dojo for operational requests. This is taking up significant teacher time and cannot continue. SMT have drafted a "How to Use Class Dojo Effectively" booklet to be issued to all parents. After considerable discussion with PC members it was decided that the information needed to be put across in a firmer tone so that all parents are aware of Class Dojo's uses. Parents will be advised that with immediate effect teachers will not be responding to operational / administrative queries put through Class Dojo, such queries should be directed through the school office.

Careers Fair – Sarah now has all the chosen jobs from the P6 and 7 pupils and will endeavour to collate the information and identify the top 25 jobs and we can then start to invite speakers to our careers fair to talk about them.

4. Update from School

Christmas

All Christmas activities went very well. It was lovely to see so many parents in school during the festive period. The school wish to thank the parent volunteers who helped to make it such a fun time in school for our pupils. I have received so many cards and letters from our elderly community who attended the concert in school, this is obviously a very popular event; lots of people turned out and gave us such positive feedback.

November Inset Day

We agreed our school vision, this will be shared with our community this term. The main focus of our work was evaluating good practice in our areas for development this year and to agree next steps. Working parties will be further developing these this term.

Toe by Toe/Stride Ahead/Hornets training for parents

Kingswells PSAs offered training to parents of children who undertake additional targeted interventions in literacy and maths such as Toe by Toe, Plus One. The parents who attended got a lot from the sessions, but uptake was poor.

Robotics

Instead of doing the goblin car race in Alford this year, a group of P6 pupils entered a robotics competition. This was the first time we had entered such a competition; the pupils used their coding skills to manipulate our robot around a course. They were delighted to win the design award.

<https://vimeo.com/305762704>

Role supporting leadership development across ACC

Mrs MacIver has been undertaking a supporting role for Aberdeen City Council to help develop leadership of change. This has involved attending a course in Stirling

where Scottish College of Educational Leadership talked about their work and she will be going to Glasgow in January to attend an Excellence in Teaching course to help shape training for Aberdeen teachers.

Playground – new equipment

We have managed to raise enough money to replace the climbing wall. The pupils have chosen their favourite alternative, and this has been ordered. Hopefully it will not be too long before our pupils are able to use this.

Pupil reporting

The feedback from parents around our suggested change to the reporting format was very positive. Staff will begin the writing process following Thursday's staff meeting. We are positive these reports will provide parents with clearer information about pupil strengths and next steps.

Young leaders of learning

Mrs Cran is leading a group of P5 and P6 pupils to be young leaders of learning. This involves the selected group being trained to support pupils to have a voice in the school and bring about change. We have been paired with Hazlehead Primary and look forward to this collaboration beginning.

Read, write, count

In November we held Read, Write, Count sessions for P2 and P3 parents. These were very well attended and provided enjoyable sessions for parents and their child to engage in learning together. We hope that this has helped parents to continue to use the suggested activities to further support learning at home.

<https://kingswells.aberdeen.sch.uk/p3-read-write-count-2/>

Child Protection Policy update

Aberdeen City Council have made changes to their child protection policy. Two of the changes were already in place at Kingswells and the third change has been actioned, which was for the photos of the child protection lead to be displayed in prominent places around the school.

Growth Mindset session for parents

Ingrid Stanyard was employed to deliver mindfulness sessions to P5-P7 pupils using our PEF allocation. This is important work when we consider the mental health statistics in Scotland. The children enjoyed these sessions and Ingrid also undertook group sessions with targeted pupils. As this money has been used we are unable to continue this work. Ingrid presented a summary of her work to parents. This was videoed and we are currently editing this so it can be shared with parents who were unable to attend.

<https://kingswells.aberdeen.sch.uk>

P1 online enrolment

P1 enrolments are currently being completed online for the first time. Parents need to use the portal to make an application including upload of proof of address. Head Teachers have been trained to approve applications through the portal to alert parents to whether their child has been offered a space.

5. Finance Update

Current Finance Balance is £1,990.78 Jass Folders have still to be paid for and we still have money to receive from ACC. Accounts have been submitted. Fiona Allan to price a pop-up banner for the PTC.

6. PTA Update

No Update as PTA meeting Tuesday 15th January 2019
Xmas fair had very good response – stalls holders gave good feedback.
Elf Shelf and parties were all well attended and PTA now preparing for Mayfair and Spring Disco.

7. Councillor's Report

None

8. AOB

An invitation has been received for the HT and a member of the PC to attend a workshop at Marischal College about Parental Engagement. Janet Goodall to host this workshop on Thursday 14th February 2019 at 9am to 12.30pm. Moira and Anne Goss to attend on behalf of Kingswells PC.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 25th February 2019