

Minutes of Meeting
Kingswells Parent Council Meeting
Kingswells School

Date & Time: Tuesday 19th November 2019 6.30pm

- Present:** Moira MacIver, Aileen McNair, Sarah Christie, Gillian Graham (Secretary), Ashleigh Cameron (Chair), Anne Goss (Treasurer), Gillian Walls, Debbie Smart, Steve Deleney (Councillor), Rachael Watson, Amanda Duncan, Mhari Miller

Apologies: Alison Tennant, Fiona Allan

- Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Approved by Rachael Watson and seconded by Ashleigh Cameron

- Parent Council Business**

Dates of Future Meetings – 14th January 2020

Communication and Social Networking Guidance – PTC communicate via different platforms such as Social Media, Facebook, Twitter etc. Let everyone know via these platforms' PTC upcoming agendas.

Mrs MacIver had a quality assurance visit by her line manager. Kingswells Parent Council newly created Parent Council Twitter page had been reviewed and was given high praise for the useful articles sourced and shared with parents. This was viewed to be excellent practice. Mrs MacIver thanked Sarah Christie for her work on this.

Following this there was a discussion around parental engagement at Kingswells School. It is observed that parents place high priority on operational things for their child like desiring very specific information regarding expectation for dress down days, however our sessions to support parents to support learning are not supported by many parents. The recent Tree of Knowledge session which Parent Council paid £2,400 attracted only 12 parents out of a potential 200. The children and teachers feel that these sessions were extremely valuable. In audits parents have asked for greater information about how they can support their child with learning. School feels they are spending time providing these and are disappointed by the low levels of engagement by parents.

Parent Council Checklist and GDPR – All new members have to sign and complete online Child Protection if helping at the school in any capacity. Ashleigh to put a link in the minutes,

<https://kingswells.aberdeen.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/Child-Protection-Policy-Aug-2019-2-4.pdf>

Kingswells School Improvement Plan – Kingswells Parent Council have engaged with the School Improvement Plan to create future agendas for Parent Council meetings. House Captains and Vice Captains worked with the school’s Senior Management Team and created 6 points that pupils could make an impact on (displayed in the school). This was discussed and at the next meeting the PC will use this as a platform to record their own plan. This will be displayed on social media platforms and in the school newsletter.

Kingswells School Curriculum Rationale – At parent interviews our finalised curriculum rationale was shared with parents. Mr Marongwe and Mrs Cran are working with a group of children to create a child-friendly version which they will share with all the pupils.

4. **Update from School**

Care Inspectorate

Kingswells School Nursery’s report is published and information sent out to parents about how this can be accessed. Nursery were praised for having ‘a friendly, caring and fun atmosphere.’ All previous requirements have been met and no recommendations were given. Very pleasing scores in quality of care and support and quality of management and leadership sections – both graded very good.

Staff development

The focus of our initial development through staff meetings has been on leadership of change. Staff have been undertaking actions from our School Improvement Plan in their working parties. They have also had training from Dyslexia Outreach on how best to support dyslexic children and how best to gather evidence to assess their barriers. A small group of teachers have formed an in-house leadership group. They are each undertaking an aspect of action research relating to an area of interest which can further support outcomes for our pupils and provide ideas for teachers.

November Inset Day

At our Inset Day we will be looking at evidence of pupil work to gain a consensus on what achieved a level looks like, this will be further developed in a future Inset day when we will be working with our colleagues in the ASG. A few teachers are sharing good practice and our working parties will be sharing some of their developments. On Friday all teaching staff are going to a conference led by Mark Burns about feedback. This will be an ongoing development for us.

Christmas

Christmas shows will be given by Primary 2, 4 and 6 this year with other year groups sharing Christmas social activities with parents.

The P1-3 will see a pantomime of Aladdin in school and P4-P7 will go to the Arts Centre to see Aladdin.

Once again our PTA will hold Elf Shelf where pupils can come and by a wrapped gift for their family and pets.

All pupils will enjoy a Christmas party and Mr MacIndoe's disco has been a popular choice once again, PTA are funding the cost of the discos.

On 10th December we will welcome members of our elderly community along for coffee and the chance to see the P6 production.

Science Competition for Girls

P7 girls were asked if they want to take part in a STEM competition organised by Oceaneering to design a poster to influence women to work in engineering. They had to pretend that they were managers of the company Aberdeen Engineering International and design a poster which had to include what jobs were available, benefits of the company and to be appealing to women as a career. We were delighted when our school came first and were awarded £1,000 prize money which will go towards funding science and technology equipment.

Chalk Talk Editors

We are continuing to support Chalk Talk, Evening Express supported newspaper with articles from schools. This year we have had 3 of our Primary 7 pupils accepted for roles on the editorial team.

Visit from Gillian Hamilton, Strategic Director for Education Scotland

On Monday 11th November Gillian Hamilton from Education Scotland visited the school to look at Leadership of Change. She spent time with staff, pupils, Mrs MacIver and had a tour of the school. It was great to have the chance to speak with Gillian about our vision for this agenda and appreciated her informal feedback too.

Rotary Public Speaking Competition

Four of our children took part in this annual competition. The standard was extremely high and our pupils prepared and spoke very well.

Tree of Knowledge

Many thanks to the Parent Council for funding workshops for P5, P6 and P7. The teachers fed back that the sessions with classes were very good quality and the topics covered were ideal. There was a very disappointing turnout for our parents session with 12 out of a possible 120 parents coming along.

5. Finance Update

Current Finance Balance is £2,655.17 - JASS Folders have been paid today (19/11/19) leaving a balance of £2,008.92 - Anne to see Gillian Millar to pay for Tree of Knowledge which will use up all the remaining balance.

6. PTA Update

PTA have paid for iPad storage units and High Visibility Vests. They are currently preparing for the Xmas Fair there are 2 Advent Calendars being raffled. There is a dress down day on Wednesday 20th November in exchange for a donation for the Xmas Fair. Coming up is Elf Shelf, School Xmas Parties the Community Show and new for this year, Xmas Wreath Making.

7. Councillor's Report

Issues with Internet connection within the School is an ongoing issue which Steve continues to pursue. Moira to write outlining all the issues that the school faces on a daily basis and the problems it causes when there is no access to the Internet.

The path that runs alongside the Nursery will be fixed but not in the near future as there are issues with co-ownership and Council budgets.

Roadworks are due to start on the Cults Road. They are expected to last 3 months but it is likely that they could last for as long as 6 months. There was a public meeting but for residents of Countesswells only. The southside of the roundabout will also have work carried out, the carriage way will not be closed but there will be land closure in place. The Northside roadworks will be carried out at a later date.

8. **AOB**

Careers Fair this year will look at positive destination and the different pathways that are available for young people other than University such as College and Modern Apprenticeships. The Careers Fair can be held in the afternoon over 3 week basis each lasting 45mins

Sarah to contact Opita regarding their Modern Apprenticeship, as they have currently taken on a former pupil. Other avenues are A2B who are based at Prime Four and RGU where we also have a few former pupils.

Class Rep – to be discussed further but a possibility to introduce a Class rep for each class and year group to help communication between school and parents.

Debbie found out that funding could be applied for from The Prime Four Community Trust. The school cannot apply but the Parent Council can, providing it benefits the whole community. (possibly something for the playground?). The funding can be applied for at any time of the year and the maximum we can apply for is £2000. Further information is to be found on the Foundation Scotland, Prime Four Community Trust website.

9. **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 14th January 2020