

Culter School Parent Council

Meeting held on Thursday 5th March 2020 at Culter Primary School

1) Attendees and apologies

Attendees:

Chair
Vice-chair Karen Inglis (KI)
Secretary Kit Macleod (KM)
Treasurer Shona Knowles (SK)
Jessie Greig (JG)
Sarah Olaleye (SO)
Julie Cimen (JC)
Karen Ingles (KI)
Lynne Stuart (LS)
Nicola Mitchell (NM)
Ian Trimmer (IT)

Apologies: Bret Rayne (BR), Kerry Forsyth (KF), Katie Jo Polat (KP), Sabine Freitag (SF), Susan Chalmers (SC) and Steven Whyte (SW).

2) Minutes from previous meeting

2.1 KI accepted the previous minutes.

3) Chair report

3.1 Christmas lights, there was limited demand for home bakes; maybe not required next year. Our stall and helpers made £97.

3.2 Gift fayre, was a success with no complaints about the gifts. A comment was made about making it eco-friendlier (less wrapping paper and maybe homemade gifts). SK has 300 rolls of wrapping paper (WH Smith donation).

3.3 JG said that SW had done a great clean out of the Parent Council store.

3.4 We are booked into the Kilt walk, as an official charity, on 7th June.

4) Treasurer report

4.1 SK bank account has been changed to new names and internet banking is now set up.

4.2 Balance is about £5k.

4.3 Nicola Hector is happy to audit the accounts.

4.4 SK has sent a letter to the Aberdeen City Council, informing them of the new Treasurer. SK needs to send accounts to Aberdeen City Council.

5) Head report

5.1 School inspection report has been published. In summary, all good. In the self-evaluation section, the teachers rated themselves as 'good'. The inspectors rated Learning and Teaching as 'satisfactory' (which spans 50-74%), Leadership and Attainment were rated as 'good' (75-90%), and Health and Wellbeing was rated as 'very good' (>91%). A question was asked about the school rated being rated as 'satisfactory'. JG replied saying she was not sure why, the inspectors come in for just two days, and compared to other Aberdeen City Council schools we had a very good report. Another question was asked about the inspector's recommendations, JG said that staff are digesting the report and using this to inform the School Improvement Plan. The nursery had one recommendation: to have the same learning in both rooms (this will be achieved on Monday, with the temporary new building). LS (who is also a primary school depute headteacher) said the inspection rating process has changed in recent years and it is very difficult to be rated highly. A follow-up point was made, by another parent, that the school should be

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striving for excellence and that 'satisfactory' is not a great label, JG said that the teachers were not happy with the 'satisfactory' label; she provided examples of the positive words in the report. All schools are on a Journey to Excellence. The inspectors want to see children leading the learning and the teachers just facilitating this. They did not see a full range of classroom activities, for example they did not see any of the 10 slots on play-based learning or speak to any children in that learning environment. LS teachers do not know when the inspectors are coming into their classrooms and if the inspectors do not see activity, then they have no record of it. JG Aberdeen City Council has paid a lot for staff to be trained in collaborative learning. but the inspectors were not interested in this. JG said they seemed to focus on maths and literacy. LS said the school's attainment level was good and was not sure how can they decided on the 'satisfactory' label from lots of 'almost always' in their report. JG was very pleased with the 'very good' for health and well-being, as the school has worked hard on this. Aberdeen City Council wants inclusion in its schools and acceptance of all children in the classrooms. JG highlighted that it takes a lot of work and stress to prepare for an inspection, so it was good when the inspectors said they will not be coming back. JG needs to balance national, local and school priorities. A follow-up question was asked about recommendations, JG said these will be in the School Improvement Plan (being worked on until May). SO asked if we were into the third and final year of the focus on health and well-being, JG replied yes and in the future the focus will be on 'pace and challenge'. LS most schools have 'pace and challenge' as a recommendation. JG and the staff will continue to improve. JG until staff have the time to digest the report. The school was last inspected 11 years ago prior to Curriculum for Excellence and Inclusion therefore comparison is not possible. Next inspection may not be for another 7 – 10 years however Aberdeen City Council continue to do Quality Assurance visits termly. Consultation on the School Improvement plan will take place with staff, pupils and parents next term. Each year the parent forum have a chance to give their views when they attend parents evenings.

5.2 JG Young Leaders of Learning (last year's P4-6 for two years, this year replace those P7s that are leaving) are looking at the School Improvement Plan, so they get other children's views. They are now focussed on achievements and are asking all the pupils what they do out with the school day and have entered these responses into a database (which is being updated each term)- as it adds to the picture of each child.

5.3 QA visit last week, the school was rated as good.

5.4 Temporary nursery building. Good news that the Care Inspectorate have passed it. Tomorrow the janitors and teachers will move furniture across from the old nursery, so they are all set to start on Monday morning. All the staff are upbeat that it will go well. JG will send out a note to parent, as there will be teething problems, it is going to be different. The teachers are looking forwards to having all the children in one room (rather than two). In the future the new nursery will have a fenced garden, so the children can go out on their own. The workmen have been very helpful with maintaining access to the Sport Centre and to the field. JG is very pleased with progress.

5.5 The school is working with Hazlehead primary on a project related to the 'world of work'. Pupils are going to the Ploughman and others places to make videos about local jobs. Last year the two schools collaborated on a project 'working with others', to help pupils know how to improve collaborative working. Staff then looked at these life skills and what could improve, and how they are relevant to working with others. Ambition plan and goal is to create an interactive map of the local community. It is good for children to learn about their local environment, the children had to write to the local businesses and set questions for the interviews. LS when finished, the two schools will have a sharing session; it has developed lots of soft skills like interviews. It enables the teacher to pick up on different skills of the children. JG then in June the plan is to invite parents to see what the children have planned and achieved. JG at the last parent's evening the Leader of Learning asked parents if they were willing to come in and talk about their work. LS as part of 'world of work' (P5-7) there is a quiz to see what type of animal you are. It helps the children understand about themselves and how they work with others.

5.6 JG talked to SW about the school playing field, as people in the community would like to take control of the field. Culter Youth want it for football. The Council are happy to provide access, as then they do not need to cut the grass. There is talk of putting up goals, this may create issue for pupil use. JG is happy for others to use the playing field; she has asked for a consultation. JG said the CSPC should have been consulted. JG in the Courier said handing over in May. JG the field belongs to the school. If the council give it away, then the school does not have space for future expansion. DS suggested we (Parent Council) can go to Culter Youth for details of their plans. SK

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said they (Culter Youth) mentioned it on Sunday as they were hoping to use it this summer. JG is not against it, just needs more details. DS there are no facilities for changing/toilets, and what about floodlights. JG currently the school teams use the field on Saturday's and the Sports Centre toilets. JG want it to be a community resource and not just for one group.

5.7 Carpets, Parent Council have suggested a new Infant hall carpet. JG is still waiting for quotes. The Parent Council could go to General and Technical at the Council to get a quote, if we do we will get a 10% discount by going straight to the company.

5.8 Health and Wellbeing. Staff looked at new Scottish Government program/resources. Parents will be invited to watch it. It will be online, so parents can view it before the children see it (so they can talk about it). It goes all the way through the school.

5.9 Sad news about Class DoJo (close to 100% parental sign up). The school needs to stop using it in March as the company are storing their data in a non-GDPR compliant country. Class DoJo is free to schools. Other schools have been trialling other options including SeeSaw used by Aberdeenshire Council schools. JG is happy to go for the paid version, to match Class DoJo features. The school cannot capture what collected in Class DoJo, parents can access the material. The school is trialling it with Kingswells.

5.10 Staffing. An administrator is starting soon. The school has a new teaching start. The teaching staff complement is going well (full staffed apart from deputy heads). Pupil numbers will drop next year (dropping a class), 49 children are leaving and 31 are coming in P1. Maternity leaves are being covered.

6) AOB

6.1 IT asked about his daughter being very distressed and about the behaviour management strategy. JG suggested best to discuss in a one to one meeting with IT.

6.2 DS asked about a costume box, as she heard a parent had taken a pupil off school as could not afford to dress up to attend school. All early year's classes have dressing up boxes, so if the children want to dress up there are outfits. JG we did not dress up on World Book day for this reason, school does not have many dress up days for this reason and children do not always like it (school uniform is for school. SO could ask for donations of Christmas jumpers.

6.3 SK about the school piece in the Courier in the school. JG wrote the school article. SK would be nice if the Parent Council put in an article. JG there is a deadline and delay before it comes out. KI and whoever would like to, will explore writing an article. The Parent Council wrote an article last summer.

6.4 JG happy to put out a group call for prizes for the bingo. KI to send a message to JG about sending out a message to parents about the Bingo.

6.5 KI booked a stall for the Gala including candy floss staff. We need a generator (does anyone have one). KI to let JC what size of generator is needed.

6.6 KI Heritage hall tea booked for 26th April.

6.7 KI Kilt walk 7th June, parents can choose the school as a charity.

7) Any other business and date of next termly meeting

7.1 Next Termly meeting is Thursday 14th May.