

BANCHORY PRIMARY SCHOOL – PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of meeting

11th December, 2018

Attendees A-Z

Peta Bennet (PB), Catriona Beverley (CB), Jackie Fernandez (JF), Sofi Izzat (SI), Elizabeth Tweedie (ET), Lindsey Leaf (LL); John Hughes (JH).

Apologies

Nicola Alexander (NA), Laura Myles (LM), Judy Robertson (JR); Islay Stewart (IS), Karen Williamson (KW), Gill Bruce (GB), Louise Considine (LC); Ruth Duddy (RD); Lesley Littlejohn (LL), Gail Rundle (GR), Sheena Sheddon (SS), Joanne Wisely (JW); Lynne Taylor (LT),

AGENDA POINTS AND ACTIONS FROM THIS MEETING

1. CHAIR PERSON UPDATE – (CB)

Notes:

As part of collaborative working between the cluster, the Hill of Banchory Parent Council invited all parents from the cluster to school to attend their mental health workshop which was run by the Mental Health Foundation. The workshop was fantastic, with practical tips on how to promote and discuss mental health wellbeing with children and young people. Focus how to be a positive first experience and strategies to support well being. The Mental Health Foundation are based in Glasgow and have a range of excellent resources and programmes including their How to series. <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/scotland>

Clusters Chairs are planning to meet early next term.

CB (Aberdeenshire rep) attended the National Parent Forum Scotland meeting on 24th November.

- Audit Scotland provided an overview of their role and outlined the findings of their research into the delivery of children and young people's mental health services in Scotland. The full report can be viewed on the Audit Scotland website, including the key facts summary messages and recommendations <http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/report/children-and-young-peoples-mental-health>
- Reps discussed the options currently being considered to illustrate 'an empowered system' for improvement in children and young people's outcomes.
- Presentation by Resolve on ASN mediation in Scotland for schools and parent access. Highlighted the benefits of mediation over tribunals and litigation. Children 1st provide the service for Aberdeenshire.
- There is a Children and Young People Mental Health Taskforce that has been set up by Scottish Government. NPFS is on the taskforce representing parent views. Discussion around the importance of practical advice and training.

PC discussed issues around children's mental health in relation to social media. Noted that primary children hand their phones in at reception in the morning and then pick them up again at the end of the day.

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CB reviewed the Scottish governments Engaging Parents and Families - toolkit for practitioners and fed back comments. One aspect of the toolkit is family learning. Although not the primary aim of family learning, guidance can be adapted to suit each school. As such suggested that we could run a beginner language course for 6 weeks in the evening for parents and pupils so they can learn together. JF to follow up with PC.

Met with Skills Development Scotland to discuss engagement with parents. They will produce a newsletter which can be shared with parents and posted on social media. My World of Work is an excellent resource for Careers advice and guidance with specific sections for primary and secondary school pupils. <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/>

Education Scotland carried out a National Thematic Inspection: readiness for empowerment review of local authorities. As part of the review of Aberdeenshire, attended a meeting with Education Scotland and other service providers to feedback.

The Parental Engagement Support Hub Aberdeenshire (PESHA) are carrying out a consultation of their Parental Involvement and Engagement Strategy which can be viewed online.

<http://bit.ly/2QEcbkR>

2. TREASURERS REPORT – (IS)

£1097.43 in the account. The signatories now in order. Request made for BPS Football Team equipment and kit.

COUNCILLORS UPDATE

Nothing to Report

3. KEY FOCUS AREAS AND SUMMARIES AND UPDATES

* Supporting and enhancing learning environments -

Library resource centre - Plan to start work on the preparing the new library once the installation of the windows has been completed.

Playgrounds - Use of the playgrounds at lunch time. Discussed possibility of year groups being in the bark area with their respective buddy year groups to create more space in the rest of the playgrounds before canteen and provide more time for different year groups of pupils to spend time together.

Community and Business Networks DYW skills - Significant amount of work going on in the school around employability skills. Identified the need to record and promote all the interactions with and input from the community (parents coming in talk about their jobs, running workshops etc) that is currently happening within the school and individual classes.

4. PTA UPDATE (JW)

No PTA rep present.

We are very grateful to the parents who have volunteered to help set up the new library resource centre. A librarian from Aberdeenshire's Library service has offered to come and help us review the books and start to set up the catalogue. JF to follow up with regards to timescales and relevant staff. Set up a separate library group to progress.

5. AOB (All)

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Toilets – Noted Girls toilets especially locks need upgrading

Handbook for new pupils or welcome pack or buddy system – update to school website and PC FB

DYW – STEM ambassadors in Aberdeen can be requested to come into school and give presentations and workshops. Careers Fair – system to record thanks to parents who take time out to do presentations or informal talks with the children

Crossing patroller

Homework Policy - Refresh of homework policy to be discussed at the next meeting

Bench to commemorate and remember past members of staff and pupils.

PREVIOUS FOCUS

ONGOING: Behaviours : An update to the ‘Behaviour for Learning’ Policy is currently being undertaken and following the feedback on the behaviour survey, new initiatives will include – the recognition and commendation of children who are maybe ‘under the radar’ but generally very well behaved; or those demonstrating ‘above and beyond’ behaviour. Expectations of children’s behaviour will be made clear to parents, staff and all pupils.

ONGOING: Refreshing the behaviour policy - The Behaviour Policy within school is being updated noted that this also applies to school bus; Once completed it is recommended that the update is sent to parents as a reminder of how children are expected to behave in school and on transport. It was also noted that a plan as to what age children should be allowed to walk to school unassisted should be formulated. *There is no legal issue for children walking to school as long as parents deem the route safe.*

ONGOING: Road safety (crossing patroller) - This position has had no applicants. HT asked that the job ad be shared in the local community. Possible for the job to be shared/split on a part time basis.

ONGOING: Homework –

ACTION: homework policy to be shared prior to the next PC meeting as part of an annual consultation exercise as parental involvement continues to change and expectations between home and school are refreshed.

CLOSED: Online safety : Recurrent incidents in the Academy regarding online safety highlights the need for parent assistance at a younger age. Our school partnerships, including support from the community police will be scheduled to educate older pupils on the online safety and actions that constitute illegal behaviour. How to keep safe etc. ‘Anxiety’ has been noted as a concern amongst Academy and Primary school pupils, so building resilience for mental health is also seen as a key part of this initiative. The PC at HOB is regularly running parent classes that

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includes this topic and is open to all BPS parents/carers. The PC at HoBs are to share the events with BPS.

CLOSED: Lines of communication with school office – the use of an answering machine in the school office has been queried as seen as being inefficient. This coupled with some messages receiving no reply. Parents concerned that urgent items are being missed and not being dealt with. Also no phone number or email address for non-urgent messages has been identified. HT also has no hard set phone allocated as now to use skype via the laptop. Resolution appears to be that the office are required to answer phones when they can. An update to the communications policy will include the HT's mobile number and the procedure for answering machine messages to go direct to the school and HT's emails. JF will action.

Update – HT now has a skype handset to allow staff to make confidential calls from the HT's office. HT contactable directly by email, mobile number or text. Or in person of course. No direct line to the HT office, but calls are regularly screened by the office staff and voicemails are sent/recorded to email.

CLOSED: Emergency Procedure and Plan update – HT regularly updates all ERC Plans which are held centrally and audited. These include emergency evacuations to the playground and table top run through plans with the SLT of other situations. For further information, please contact the HT.

CLOSED: Playground repairs – HT has logged the potholes as per process.

Update – The council have repaired the potholes over the two large playgrounds and the area at the gate.

CLOSED: Plan for relocation of classes during installation of new windows – HT will consult with SLT and staff, when appropriate.

Update – This project has started, with the N windows being replaced first. Groupcalls will be shared as and when information is relevant.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

PC MEETINGS FOR 2019

28th January

26th March

30th April

TO BE REMOVED FROM FINAL COPY: NOTE NEW ATTENDEE : Lindsey leaf –
lindsey.leaf@gmail.com