



MINUTES

Avoch Primary School Parent Council

17th June 2017 | 7.00PM

In Attendance

Julie Davidson, Iona McMillan, Gail Paterson, Stefanie Rankine, Lorna Sim, Phoebe Barton

Minutes of last meeting

Minutes from the last meeting were agreed. There were a couple of updates...

Bikeability

Would trainers and children be prepared to run the courses over a weekend afternoon instead of over multiple school days? To be picked up next term.

Banking

When Fortrose Bank of Scotland closes, we will use the Post Office for BoS banking.

Floats will have to be ordered in advance.

Gail will not stand for treasurer next year so she will write procedures for the banking and any other treasurer tasks.

Toast Trolley

The toast trolley changes from last month were put in place and seem to have been well received by the children. We thank Hayley and the Catering team for listen to the concerns and addressing them so quickly.

Half Day Fridays

There will be no further action on half day Fridays as the Vote came back as a "No".

Head Teacher's Report

Our new school Vision

We had another look at our new school vision as we felt there was a very important aspect missing- this was the joint working between home and school as partners in a child's education. Therefore we have added the words 'work in partnership' to it so it now reads as -

Our Vision - *Work in partnership to nurture the pupils of Avoch Primary to be happy, healthy and achieving, now and in their future lives (adopted by pupils, parents and staff April 2017)*

New classes

Composite classes were discussed at the last meeting and I thank you for the parent council support in this. As you know, children were informed of their new classes on Friday. There have been a small number of parents questioning their child's allocation, and I have met with a couple to discuss it further, but on the whole the process has been fairly smooth.

The school Improvement Plan.

We evaluate the work of the school and the outcomes on learners on an ongoing basis. This takes account of parent and pupil views, collected in a variety of ways. Based on this, we then write our next plan.

Our key priorities in our action plan for 2017-18 are as follows-

Action plan 1- The learner's Journey.

This is all about how well we know our learners, how well they know themselves as learners and how well do parents know their child's strengths, next steps and how jointly we can help them in their learning to reach those next steps. This action plan will include the development of other ways of reporting progress to parents, such as the use of an online platform as discussed at the last parent council meeting.

Action Plan 2- Raising attainment in Literacy and Numeracy.

This will always be the main focus of what we do at Avoch. In our evaluations and discussion, we look for trends and plan how to intervene to make a difference to that child or a group, or indeed as a whole school. In the year to come we will focus more on grammar and punctuation, as well as comprehension. We will continue to push the quick recall of basic number facts. In addition, we hope to continue our parental involvement such as the open doors project and look for additional ways of involving parents in their child's learning.

Action plan 3- Health and Well-being

The staff evaluated Health and well-being as very good across most aspects. However, it was felt that if a child is not in the right place emotionally, then learning is often hindered. We plan more work on building resilience to help children to deal better with change and the ups and downs of friendships. We intend to work with our older pupils on equality, equity, diversity issues including-Rights and Responsibility, human rights, social justice, discrimination and prejudice. We will also create an equalities policy as a tool to support pupils, parents and staff. We plan to include parents in the development of this.

Concluding this section, parents will receive a summary of the school evaluation and improvement plan and I will involve the parent council in the developments over the next session, and inform the whole parent body of progress via the monthly newsletters.

New classrooms

The news I received today is that it is likely that these will not be completed for the children returning in August. This will be disappointing to everyone but we need to be positive as we will get them, albeit a bit late, they have given a date of no later than the October holidays but most likely they will be ready much before this.

Until the cabins are ready, Plan B is that the P7/6 class and the P7 class will be taught by two teachers in the current very large P5 room. I have already told the pupils this may happen and they thought this was the best option, as opposed to moving a whole class to another off site location. Most showed great resilience and thought it would be quote - 'great fun'. To reassure parents, the expectation of what the children will be learning during this time, will be exactly the same as always-very high.

Mrs L Sim June 2017

Treasurer's Report

As there have been no events there is no change from last month.

Fundraiser's Update

No update. To be reconvened in the new school year.

Any Other Business

Sports Kit

Mrs Webster and Gail/Julie have been looking a new sports kits. 40 kits are needed in a range of sizes = £1k+ shorts, t-shirts and socks (cheaper socks could be sourced separately).

The older girls want to buy their own shorts as they are not keen to wear communal shorts. Suggestion that these could be purchased through the School uniform channel.

Sports kit samples have been requested and these will all be looked at with Mrs Webster once all samples have been received.

Action: Review samples (Gail, Julie with Mrs Webster)

Play Equipment.

Pupil council to be asked about what equipment they would like. They can present next term as to what their preferences would be.

Action: Stef speak to Munloch, Tore and Culbokie schools to find out what play equipment they have and ask who supplied it. (Stef)

Action: Present some options to pupil council next term

Cabins

Lorna to phone about Cabins and resurfacing of playground as concern was raised about the work taking place during school hours. The safety of the children is paramount.

Action: Call Council to express PC concern about any delay to the building works. (Lorna)

Homework

Question raised about the amount of homework being given out and that it has to be completed during the school week. Would it be possible to do the homework over the weekend when people generally have more time?

Mrs Sim said that individual circumstances can be taken into consideration and alternate options can be flexible (to a point). If there's any issue with completing homework, make a note in the home/school diary or make an appointment and speak to the teacher directly.

Mrs Sim will speak to the teachers to keep an eye on the Homework levels and ensure that there's no punishment for homework not being handed in.

Potentially hold a survey in 2017/8 to ask about homework.

Action: revisit in new school year (Lorna)

School Trips.

A concern was raised that some classes are not receiving the same amount of school trips as others. Mrs Sim said that trips have to be educational and fit in with what they are learning in class at the time. All trips are tracked and over a child's time at school it should even out.

Mrs Sim will speak to Teachers to get their thoughts and see if there's anything that can be done to encourage more trips.

Action: Add to Agenda for next meeting. (Iona)

Next Disco

5th October.

Action: Book DJ (Gail)

Action: Complete let form (Iona)

Action: Look for volunteers (Stef).

Next Meeting

AGM – Wednesday 6th September 7pm followed by first meeting of new school year

Next meeting – 26th October