



# MINUTES

## Avoch Primary School Parent Council

Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018 | 7.00PM

---

### In Attendance

---

Jacqui Dingwall, Julie Dinwoodie, Ruth Edmonds, Maru Fraser, Kate Lackie, Stewart Lambie, Iona McMillan, Lorna Sim, Lindsay Smith.

---

### Apologies

---

Inga Ballantyne, Phoebe Barton, Julie Davidson, Asia Kucharczyk, Stefanie Rankine, Jane Reid,

---

### Minutes from last meeting

---

Minutes were agreed.

**Unicycle** – Catherine Silversides has offered to run the unicycle. Attendees at the APC meeting offered support so that Catherine doesn't have to do it herself.

Idea to offer P1 items to nursery at transitions as often it's P1 items that are handed in.

**Action: Lindsay will contact Catherine to offer help (Lindsay)**

**Disco** – Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. Clash of dates with Fortrose Gathering. Decision taken to go ahead with disco anyway or there won't be a disco this term.

**P7 contribution next year** – P7s to be given a budget which they can use to spend on autograph books and/or the dance or anything else (within reason) that they choose. There won't be separate funding for autograph books and the dance.

---

### Head Teacher's Report

---

#### New classes

As you know, children were informed of their new classes on Friday. This has gone fairly smoothly with the process being widely supported by parents. I believe that there is now more of an understanding of how composite classes work and I think that parents appreciate the time taken to consider each and every child in the process. There have only been 2 parents questioning their child's allocation this time around.

#### Staffing

I am still awaiting the full allocation to the school and this meant that one class could not be given the name of their teacher and another class is awaiting confirmation. I will let those children and their parents know as soon as I do. It is however likely that Mrs Dinwoodie will be teaching for two days per week as she only gets one day management as Depute Head and one day as management of nursery. She gets an additional day as Learning support teacher. Additional funding was sourced to pay for the other 2 days out of class this year but that won't continue.

## **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 2018-19 are building on this year's priorities and developing them further

### **Action plan 1- The learner's Journey.**

A lot of the ground work was done this year so next session will look at how we further engage parents in their child's learning, build on our key assessment tasks and hopefully begin to use the See-saw online platform as discussed at a previous 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 again on grammar and punctuation, as well as comprehension and spelling. We will continue to push the quick recall of basic number facts and further develop problem solving where the children can use their skills in real life scenarios.

Due to the number of new teachers to Avoch over the past two years, there will be an increase in monitoring of lessons by the management team to ensure expectations are being met, that there is continued consistency across the school and that all children's needs continue to be at the heart of what we do.

Closing the attainment gap- this is a national priority and one that we have had on our plan for years. This session we are planning a number of additional initiatives to try and help close the gap in terms of learning. Our first job each session is to identify the children whom we believe are not reaching their potential and thereafter the first aspect we look at is reducing absence for these children. We will then look at other potential barriers to learning and plan how we can support their learning.

We have identified that imaginative writing could be improved by developing young children's imagination in nursery and P1 through more play based activities. Without the development of their own individual imagination, a child today will often only be able to write about a film or electronic game.

### **Action plan 3- Health and Well-being**

The staff recently evaluated Health and well-being as very good across all aspects in the school. Emotional and social wellbeing continue to be the aspects where we put in the most support. Therefore, we plan more work on building resilience to help children to deal better with change and the ups and downs of friendships.

Much of our work this session focused on the well-being indicators which are often abbreviated to SHANARRI. You may have heard your child talk about these or seen them in their achievement books.

We will further develop these by creating a catchier way for everyone to remember them and for parents to be able to use them as a guide to support their child's well-being.

Carried forward from this session, 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 have recently drafted an equalities policy as a tool to support pupils, parents and staff and this will shortly be shared with a parent group for comment.

In addition, we will finally embark on our second language for P5-7 which is British Sign language. staff will receive training and as your child learns it, we hope they will teach you too.

---

### Treasurer's Report

---

Asia (treasurer) wasn't at the meeting but she sent her update in:

Closing balance from previous meeting was £4325.59, we received £20.07 (Giving Machine) so total in the bank now is £4345.66. That excluding the money from the summer fete.

£100 cheque given to P7 leavers has yet to be cashed.

---

### Fundraiser's Update

---

There was no fundraiser's update as Stef was unable to attend the meeting.

---

### Breakfast and after-school clubs

---

The breakfast club and after-school clubs are now up and running (August 2018) but at the meeting it seemed that the committed numbers were too low to be viable.

The Parent Council would like to express its appreciation for the significant efforts of Mrs Sim and her staff to get this valuable service in place.

---

### Council's Management in School's programme

---

Nothing to report but a watching eye will be kept on it and future updates given when necessary.

---

### Play Equipment

---

Inga and Kate went around the playground with Muriel (Janitor) to look at existing equipment and possible sites for new items.

Three Suppliers have been contacted but there have been no formal responses as yet. All three expressed an interest in visiting the playground. The Highland Council's Maintenance Officer will be invited along to any visits as he has the right to veto any ideas and it would be better to know of any exclusions at the earliest possible date.

To push this forward we need to have a dedicated playground sub group and potentially a separate fundraising sub group. After the holidays, Parents to be asked if anyone can assist with either group.

---

### Daily Mile

---

Two parents raised the possibility of introducing a daily mile, where once a day the children and staff do a mile (or 15 min) circuit to encourage fitness, concentration abilities etc.

Parent Council were supportive of the idea but were concerned about where the time would be found to do this.

The School echoed the concerns as their days are already challenged time wise. There are already a number of activities that take place outdoors, incorporating movement into the learning process.

**Action: Ruth to speak to Catriona Munro for more ideas about how other schools manage to fit this into their days? For next term.**

---

## Mindfulness

---

Ruth explained that there was an opportunity for teaching staff to attend a free, 6-week, mindfulness course next May. This would be run outwith school hours.

If there an interest, then it would need to be booked soon to reserve the May spot.

**Action: Lorna to see if anyone is interested.**

---

## Yoga

---

Is there an interest in getting someone in to teach yoga during school hours? This couldn't be during class learning times but could potentially be introduced at golden time.

**Action: Ruth to find out if any instructors would volunteer for this.**

---

## AOB

---

**Sports day** – Sports day this year was a beautiful, sunny day and some children got a little sunburnt from sitting out all morning. Teachers are not allowed to put sunscreen on, or supply sunscreen. In the future, Teachers will be asked to remind children to put sunscreen on if they have it with them.

Children loved the oranges provided on Sports Day. Very positive feedback from the children and the staff. The rinds were taken away and given to the owner of some very happy, orange loving pigs so there was no waste.

---

## Next Meeting

---

Monday 10th September 2018, Avoch Primary school

19:00 - AGM

19:15 - first meeting of the new school year.