

**MINUTES OF MEETING
AUCHENBLAE PARENT COUNCIL
23rd April 2019**

Attendance;-

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| *Mirjam Currie (Chair) | John Forrester (Head) |
| *Kate Russon (Secretary) | *Katy Slessor |
| *Alyson Tulloch (Treasurer) | Zoe Archer |
| Kate Matthews | Kevin Gaffney |
| Louise McCabe | Charlene Cheesman |
| Cllr George Carr | Cllr Jeff Hutchison |

* - Indicates member of Parent Council

Apologies;-

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| *Kirsty Clarke | *Sheila Morgan |
| *Lorna Eastaugh | Sally Lunn |

| Item | Description | Action |
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| 2 | <p>A few points were made regarding the minutes of the last meeting: STEM week will now take place w/c 20th May. Health and Wellbeing Curriculum needs parental input, particularly with regards to Sex Education and what parents think should be taught to P1/2. JF suggested a working group of parents would be helpful with this. The letter sent to Parent Council from a group of parents was tabled at the last meeting, as attached. Parent Council provides a voice for parents on issues important to carers and children. Some parents feel there is a concern with the perceived gap in Maths between Primary and Secondary. It was decided that at the next meeting Councillors would be invited to address staffing levels, particularly in Supply.</p> | |
| 3 | <p>The Way Forward – Parental Involvement</p> <p>JF gave background to the meeting for the benefit of the Councillors present. JF feels that there is enough data and evidence to show that school is achieving, but would like to survey the parent body to get a wider parental voice. It was discussed how best to get the widest response to the survey and it was agreed that the wider the distribution the better – paper copy, Survey monkey and also asking parents at Sports Day to get the widest possible response. Also, that the survey be short (5 minutes) and there be an incentive for completion of the survey. JF asked for suggestions for questions. Sports Day and Christmas Show will be diarized events in the future where the parent voice can be heard and gathered. Minutes should be widely available, KM suggested they could be emailed to parents. There was some discussion around this. Figures were discussed from recent assessments (JF). The role of Tutoring Companies was raised by parents and there was some discussion regarding this. Communication between school and parents can be improved. Mid-Term reports show what has been covered and the Sharing the Learning Book should show what's going to be covered in the next three weeks. There was some discussion around the perception that parents have and reality, which could be improved by communication. Staffing – KM asked Councillors what they were going to do about improving the provision of supply staff within school. GC commented that this is a county-wide problem and he hears from staff that inclusion is causing problems – support isn't available within schools so retired teachers aren't going back into schools. Aberdeenshire Council is one of the worst funded councils in Scotland, with 11% per child less than the rest of Scotland. Education have been affected by cuts, with teaching staff not being replaced. GC is doing what he can to bring education up the agenda. JF stated that school will have a temporary position to start with next year and also, there can be more work done across the cluster to help with staffing levels. Supply teachers coming in can see pathways and planning in place which are sustainable and consistent in order to avoid confusion and repetition. C for E can be tailored to the needs of the school and DYW and Learning for Sustainability aren't a distraction from core curriculum when well planned.</p> | |

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| | JF has lots of conversations with Principal Teachers at Mearns. Parents are concerned about the gap in Maths between primary and secondary, but children at school are working towards Level 3 and Mearns are now using Numicon, so it's a two-way conversation. Primary heads from the cluster meet monthly with Gareth Campbell and transition is a constant discussion. | |
| 4 | Fundraising/Summer Fayre Arrangements were discussed for the Summer Fayre, which will take place on Saturday 4 th May. There will be stalls for games, a Quadlathon for children (welly throwing, football skills ets...), tea room, a bouncy castle and a raffle. | |
| 5 | AOB None | |
| 6 | Date of next meeting Wednesday 22 nd May at 9.15am. | |