

**MINUTES OF MEETING
AUCHENBLAE PARENT COUNCIL
24th May 2012, 7 - 8.40pm
Outside in the sunshine**

In attendance

Lindsay Cochrane*	Mrs Young
Isabelle Riddoch	Mrs Ralston
Lizzy Dixon	Mrs Blakemore
Sue Barrie*	
Clare Ptaszek	
Steve Vickers*	
Sheila Morgan*	
Margo Titmuss	
Linda Patterson*	
John Forrester*	

* indicates Member of the Parent Council Committee

Apologies

Mrs Mackay	Miss Thomson
Miss Currie	Miss Rogers
Patricia MacEachern	Don Wood

Action

1 Minutes of Previous meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved without amendment.

2 Matters arising from previous minutes

Clare Ptaszek had procured the weather station.

Mrs Young still awaiting draft guidance on use of Facebook for school communications, and to let the parent council know when available.

EY

Whole school photo - Mrs Young explained that this would need written consent from all parents but this could be arranged. Lindsay to agree a date with Mrs Young to take.

LC

3 Chair's Report

The period since our last meeting on 1st February 2012 has been a reasonably busy, eventful and successful one for the Parent Council and its members.

FUNDRAISING

Daffodil Tea: Thanks very much to everyone who contributed to the success of this year's Daffodil Tea. We made a profit of £1,597.32 and could not have done this without the help and support of parents and other family members.

Donation: A donation of £25 was recently received from two parents who held a fundraiser for the Swimming Club. A couple of tea towels were also sold and the change was donated, giving an additional £10.

TREASURER POSITION

Isabelle Riddoch has kindly agreed to assist Steve with the finances.

CINEMA EVENT

Due to other time constraints and other commitments, it was not possible to organise this in March as we had planned. Sheila Morgan, Lindsay Cochrane and Lorna Baker are

in the process of discussing potential dates and it is hoped that we can organise this before the end of the academic year. We also hope this is something that we can organise on a regular basis.

RME PROJECT

Mrs Young recently approached me to ask if the Parent Council could help with an area of work that has been on the School's Improvement Plan for the last couple of years - RME Resources. It involves identifying RME resources and helping to purchase them in order to set up RME project boxes for each of the main religions. I co-opted Don Wood to help with this and we recently fed our thoughts back to Mrs Young. I plan to put something in our next Newsletter about this and to ask parents for their help in sourcing cultural and religious artefacts.

With regard to RME, a parent has asked me to ensure that we include some information about atheism when considering RME resources as not everyone believes in religion and the children should be aware of this when they are looking into other religions and beliefs.

MEETING REGULARITY

At our last meeting we had difficulty agreeing on a suitable date for our next meeting, due to staff commitments. There has therefore been a lapse of nearly 5 months between meetings and there is subsequently a lot on tonight's Agenda. To avoid this in future, I would like to suggest that we meet more regularly and that we perhaps provisionally agree meeting dates at the AGM / start of the academic year at AGM. This obviously needs to be discussed further and agreed by the Parent Council.

NEWSLETTERS AND PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

While the Newsletters are helping to highlight the profile of the Parent Council, it is still disappointing that there are no more parents coming forward to get involved; either by attending our meetings, or volunteering to help out. People will help when asked, but there is sadly a lack of willingness to help unless asked. We are a very small Committee this year and really have needed the help from other parents. We very much appreciate the help that we have had, but we cannot keep relying on the generosity of the same people all the time. Perhaps, we need to have some kind of awareness campaign before the end of term, or at the start of the new academic year, to try and encourage more parents to come to the AGM and get involved in the new Committee. I will bring this up for discussion at tonight's meeting.

AND FINALLY, THANK YOU

As this is the last meeting of the current Parent Council, I would like to take this opportunity to say that I have enjoyed the last year in the role of Chair. I would like to thank my fellow Committee members, other parents, Mrs Young and the teaching staff for all their help and support over the last year; and to wish the incoming Parent Council good luck for the forthcoming academic year.

4 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported a current account balance of £2,591, plus petty cash of £35.

The **Daffodil Tea** had made over £1,500, which was only slightly less than last year in spite of fewer people attending than last year and more expenses.

5 Headteacher's Report

Learning and Teaching

We are making very good progress with implementing the experiences of curriculum for excellence. We adopt an active and creative approach to the planning and delivery of the totality of the curriculum. Our assessment is linked to the planning and we strive to involve parents at all stages through the 'Sharing our

Learning' leaflets, learning Journeys and Come and Share sessions. We have been able to work with our cluster colleagues this session on literacy.

Next Steps

- Adoption of new literacy resources
- Reorganisation of all existing resources into 'contexts for learning' boxes.
- Adding more active Heinemann and further reorganisation of resources.

Rights Respecting School activities are going well and we enjoyed positive feedback from parents for our school charter. At the beginning of next session we will develop class charters.

Budget/ repairs etc

- Biggest expense is the active Heinemann but we will need to further update literacy and context for learning materials.
- Redecoration of hall and staffroom planned.
- Will need new projectors this session.
- We would like to add ICT resources -computers

Help gratefully received

- Cycling
- Reorganisation of resources
- Garden
- Chess sets

Forthcoming Events

- Friday 1 June – Jubilee circuit of activities – picnic lunch, dancing, portraits, planting, cake decorating, craft.
- Tuesday 12 June – Olympic torch – not as a school but parents are welcome to take pupils on their own.
- Thursday 14 June – P6/7 at the Drama Festival
- Friday 15 June – Olympic Event at Laurencekirk
- Health Week 21 – 25 June
 - Thursday - ?
 - Friday – Golf + Potted Sports
 - Playgroup invited to Nursery for a picnic
 - Monday – Shell wax workshop
 - Tuesday – Den Day –
 - Wednesday – ?
- Thursday 28 June: Leavers Assembly and Barbecue

School Roll and staffing

At this time the roll continues to fluctuate and it is very difficult to create classes. People are moving in and out of the village. As always we the children's learning is at the heart of every decision which is made. I will do my very best to let people know as soon as is possible but I am very wary of telling the children one thing and have to change it at the last minute. We will also have staffing changes next session.

6 Extra curricular account

It was reported that the extra curricular account had a balance of around £1,400. Some equipment was required was football and tennis, however, and some of this money will be used to purchase this. Any outstanding balance over

and above £500 will be transferred to the main parent council account.

7 End of term barbecue

This would be held on Thursday 28th June after school. P6/7 will perform their drama. Some shelter is required for the performers - possibly Isabelle's large gazebo. The dads traditionally organise the food - John Forrester to coordinate. Lindsay to send list of volunteers

IR
JF/LC

8 Panto trip

This was booked for Friday 7th December. The total predicted cost including buses, tickets and icecream was £1,813.20. The children would be asked to contribute £12 each and the meeting agreed to cover the shortfall from the Parent Council account.

There will be a church performance this year rather than a show.

9 Hobbycraft vouchers

It was agreed that each class teacher would be provided with a £50 Hobbycraft voucher next term paid for by the Parent Council. It was also suggested that a request be put in the village Messenger requesting donations of any specific materials required by the school.

SV
EY

10 Potted sports

Linda, Lindsay and Clare volunteered to organise teas and coffees for the potted sports

LP
LC
CP

11 Awareness raising events for Parent Council

It was agreed to have some display boards at the barbecue to explain the work of the Parent Council. A coffee morning/ light lunch was also proposed to be held in the nursery on Friday 31st August from 12 til 1pm.

LC

12 Next meeting - AGM

The next meeting will be the AGM next term - Wednesday 5th September 7pm in the school.