

ALFORD ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Alford Academy
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Minutes of Meeting 14th June 2017

Present: Colin Turnbull, David Wyllie, Liz Strachan, Penny Fuller, Sarah Mcgregor, Sandy Innes, Richard Stroud, Louise Mitchell, Angela Findlay, Denise Smith, Mark Reynolds, Anson Mackay, Fay Mackay

In Attendance: Moira Milne

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Yvonne Buckingham, Maria Rossi, Tara Crooke and Sue-Ann Grant

Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting on 8th May 2017 were accepted as accurate.

Proposed by Penny Fuller

Seconded by Richard Stroud

2. Matters arising

- 2.1 Parent Council-Pupil Council partnership – outdoor learning environment.** Await feedback from pupils. Pupil Council representatives will be invited to the next Parent Council meeting. Fundraising and accessing grants will need to be discussed next time.

ACTION: Outdoor learning environment - Pupil Council representatives will be invited to the next Parent Council meeting. Moira Milne

- 2.2 Supporting learning**
This is ongoing – a subgroup will meet. Colin reported that he attended a dyslexia evening organised by Donna Wilson (Parental Engagement Officer Aberdeenshire Council) which was a wealth of resources and advice. The Parent Council are looking for a person to work with the school to help support parents and pupils. There is a successful group supporting dyslexia in Westhill and it is hoped to set up a similar group in Alford that will run workshops and provide support.

ACTION: Supporting learning - a subgroup will meet to develop ways to share resources and ideas with parents to support their child's learning. Colin Turnbull and Moira Milne

2.3 Forum across all cluster schools – aim to hold topic driven event twice yearly. Ongoing. Colin Turnbull. Colin attended the workshop “How to improve your Parent Council” and gave a short presentation on the experiences of Alford Parent Council. Cluster wide workshops were welcomed to maximise the effectiveness of Parent Councils and support parents.

ACTION: Parent Council to create a forum across all cluster schools and aim to hold a topic driven event twice yearly. Colin Turnbull

2.4 Student financial advice and mentoring opportunities
Aim to give opportunity/advice to all pupils and put resources on the website. Ongoing. Sarah Mcgregor volunteered to help David Wyllie.

ACTION: David Wyllie will lead a subgroup to provide financial advice at the careers evening in September and discuss mentoring opportunities for pupils. David Wyllie will post financial information for students/parents on the website.

3. Treasurer’s report

The balance of the main account as of 14th June was £4,201.46. The balance of the lottery account was £1,126. Outgoings since the last meeting include Show My Homework £3,000, June 2016 awards ceremony £1,500, June 2016 P7 parents evening refreshments £144 and £570 for the internet safety day. Payments were received from Easyfundraising totalling £200.46. The Easyfundraising app has generated £716.76 since it was first set up. Commitments for funding include 2017 awards ceremony, 2017 P7 parents evening refreshments and outdoor learning environment projects (see **2.1** above).

Penny reported that the annual income from the lottery, Easyfundraising and Aberdeenshire Council is approximately £2,470 and the annual outgoings including the awards ceremony, lottery licence, water bottles and clerk’s fees are approximately £2,120. At present the account has a healthy balance but we may need to think about extra fundraising for any further events or purchases.

4. Focus Groups

Moira Milne and Colin Turnbull will look at ways to discuss and progress the feedback gathered at parents’ evenings, and look at developing focus groups to help actively seek parents’ views.

ACTION: Focus group invitations - Moira Milne and Colin Turnbull will look at ways to progress feedback gathered at parents’ evenings and how focus groups could be developed.

5. 3-18 campus -Alford Parents sub group feedback

- Richard Stroud, Penny Fuller, Moira Milne and a primary parent met up and discussed ways to reach parents. Suggestions included tours of the campus and open days, with some during the day and some in the evening. These should be informal and friendly but purposeful.

6. Head Teacher's report

Staffing update

Moira reported that 7 staff will leave the Academy this summer and that good progress is being made in recruiting new staff.

- **Art/Technical** – departures – R Duncan, D Duffy , C Woolley are relocating. An Art & Design probationer is secured and an experienced Art & Design teacher has been appointed. . Vacancy in technical - position re-advertised.
- **PE** – G Kelman relocating, position filled.
- **History/ASL** - D Mackenzie – retiring. Probationer secured.
- **Mathematics** -J Bowen – retiring. New teacher appointed.
- **Physics** – H Booth – retiring. New teacher appointed.
- **ASL** – P Masson and L Lawson - retiring. Replacements appointed.
- **Geography (October)** – P McDonald - retiring. Probationer secured.
- **Computing** – vacancy.

7. What would the Parent Council like to achieve in the next year?

- 7.1 Developing subgroups
- Fundraising
 - Supporting learning
 - Forums across cluster schools
 - 3-18 campus
 - Student advice/mentoring
- 7.2 Ways to be more effective at engaging parents
- 7.3 Pupil Council-Parent Council partnership – outdoor learning environment – fundraising and accessing grants etc. Advice will be sought from the Forestry Commission, John Muir Trust, National Trust etc. To be led by pupils' ideas.

8. Proposals for funding

- 8.1 Outdoor learning environment (see 2.1 above)

9.

Date of next meeting – September AGM and first meeting TBA

Close 9.10pm

ACTION POINTS

- ACTION:** Outdoor learning environment - Pupil Council representatives will be invited to the next Parent Council meeting. Moira Milne
- ACTION:** Supporting learning - a subgroup will meet to develop ways to share resources and ideas with parents to support their child's learning. Colin Turnbull and Moira Milne
- ACTION:** Parent Council to create a forum across all cluster schools and aim to hold a topic driven event twice yearly. Colin Turnbull
- ACTION:** David Wyllie will lead a subgroup to provide financial advice at the careers evening in September and discuss mentoring opportunities for pupils. David Wyllie will post financial information for students/parents on the website.
- ACTION:** Focus group invitations - Moira Milne and Colin Turnbull will look at ways to progress feedback gathered at parents' evenings and how focus groups could be developed.