

ALFORD ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Alford Academy
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Minutes of Meeting 22nd January 2018

Present: Yvonne Buckingham, Liz Strachan, Maria Rossi, Penny Fuller, Louise Mitchell, Tara Croke, Sandy Innes, Charlotte Milburn, Angela Findlay, Monica Iloya, David Wyllie

In Attendance: Moira Milne, Stuart Cookson (Acting DHT)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Yvonne Buckingham kindly chaired the meeting, in the absence of Colin Turnbull, and welcomed everyone.

Apologies were received from Colin Turnbull, Nicola Sedgwick, Sarah McGregor, Richard Stroud and Denise Smith.

Sue-Ann Grant has stepped down from the Parent Council as her son has now left school. Ian Findlay has sadly passed away, and we would like to give our thanks for his contribution to education in general, as well as his input at Parent Council meetings. Moira Milne and Colin Turnbull attended a memorial service in Inverurie on behalf of the Academy and the Parent Council.

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

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

Proposed by Penny Fuller

Seconded by Maria Rossi

Matters arising

2.1 Parent Council- Pupil Council partnership – outdoor learning environment

Penny Fuller reported that the Pupil Council purchased the Christmas lights for the campus –and the Parent Council have paid £103.10 for this.

ACTION: Outdoor learning environment –Penny Fuller will meet with the Pupil Council and report to the Parent council at the next meeting. Moira Milne/Penny Fuller

2.2 Supporting learning

Ongoing. See 6. Parental Engagement below

ACTION: 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

Ongoing. No date yet, topic of first event will be dyslexia.

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

2.4 Focus Groups

Ongoing

ACTION: Moira Milne and Colin Turnbull will look at ways to discuss and progress feedback gathered at parents' evenings and how focus groups could be developed.

2.5 Information evening in June

David Wyllie will meet with Frances Talbot and set a date in June for the information evening.

ACTION: A date will be set for the information evening in June for the current S4-5s with advice about university, apprenticeships and other career paths. David Wyllie.

2.6 Christmas Decorations

Tara Crooke suggested that next Christmas we could get some Christmas decorations from Union Square for the Campus, as they give them away once the festive season is over.

3. Treasurer's report

In the main account there was £4,186.33 at the end of December and in the lottery account £2201.00. The annual payment from Aberdeenshire Council has yet to be received. Easyfundraising has generated £917.82 to date, an amount of £61.83 has recently been paid in. There is a commitment to fund projects for the outdoor environment. Payments due out include clerk's fees £50 and pupil council Christmas lights £103.10. The Sponsored walk water is still to be paid once the invoice arrives - £ 125.80. There is possibly a sponsor for this year's Award's Ceremony, however the Parent Council will contribute if needed.

4. Head Teacher's report

Staffing Update

Appointments:

H. Wright - Home Economics

Departures:

C. Marques-Martin – Modern Languages

Vacancies:

Business

ASL

Modern Languages

Changes to roles:

S. Cookson – Acting DHT

Highlights since last meeting:

- My World of Work – training was held for some staff to build careers education into daily practice
- Poppy Appeal - £280 raised by the Young Interact Club
- YPI – Youth Philanthropy Initiative – S5 pupils gave presentations on a chosen charity, the winning group chose Kayleigh's Wee Stars and this charity will receive £2500 donated by the Wood Foundation. The school raised £500 to contribute by holding a Lip Sync Battle event.

- In service days in November – all cluster school staff attended mental health awareness presentations with keynote speaker Andy Cope – The Art of Brilliance. He talked about being the best version of yourself and positive thinking.
- Children In Need day. Over £1000 was raised. Entertaining staff talent competition.
- Rotary Young Musician planned and hosted by the Interact Club. K Cooper was overall winner, playing the fiddle and G Callard won the junior section for singing.
- ALEC – the Rotary sponsored an event educating pupils about drugs and alcohol.
- Youth Volunteer Awards for Aberdeenshire – L Wright was a joint winner, many pupils from Alford were recognised at this event.
- Inspiring Aberdeenshire Awards – now open for nominations
- Christmas dances – these went very well this year.
- Christmas concert- thanks to D Trueman and his team
- Christmas services – held on the morning of the last day of term in the school. Rev John Cook (Alford) and Rev Euan Glenn (Cluny) led the services.
- House assemblies
- School newsletter – new style, well received to date.
- Open boys’ basketball team through to next stage of Scottish Cup beating Strathallan 79-78.
- My Future Aspirations competition sponsored by Thorpe Molloy – runner up F Reynolds S1.

Forthcoming events

- **DYW** – Developing the Young Workforce – Stuart Cookson (acting DHT) is organising lunchtime sessions for pupils to meet with parents or other members of the community to find out about different jobs and careers. He has had some offers from parents already and asked if any other parents were willing to participate. Some parents at the meeting were interested. Requests for other volunteers will be made. There is an event for S4 pupils each September involving a “speed dating” approach to allow pupils to find out about different career options. The lunchtime sessions proposed would be for any year group and would be specific careers at each one.
- **Empowering Schools consultation** - the Scottish Government is consulting on the provisions of the Education (Scotland) Bill – the aim is to enable headteachers to determine the resources and approaches best suited for their own learners’ journeys. Moira has responded to this consultation. As well as views from teachers, views from parents and pupils are also being sought for this. Liz will email the link to parents on the Parent Council mail list. There is an event led by the Education & Skills Committee in Peterhead on Monday 29 January- all parents are invited.

5. Vision and Values – seeking the views of Alford Academy Parent Council

Consultation on school vision statements and values is underway i.e. “What matters most to us?”. Pupils and staff have been consulted on core values and a list of words reflecting their thoughts was shared. At the Parent Council meeting tonight Moira asked those present to draft their top 5 values and the words selected were:

Respect
Honesty
Positivity
Caring
Ambition

Curriculum priorities were shared i.e.:

CfE - Curriculum for Excellence
GIRFEC – Getting It Right For Every Child
DYW – Developing the Young Workforce

Curriculum drivers were described as ‘the golden threads’ running through the curriculum and examples were shared including community (heritage, culture), Arts and creativity, networks, horizons, confidence, ambition, technology, our unique setting, skills for the workplace, future jobs.

The community campus vision statement is currently “Working together to nurture, inspire and achieve”. Moira will consult all parents for ideas for the vision statement and values. A suggestion was to put this in a video as well as a written consultation. The aim is to have the new vision statement and values up and running by Easter.

6. Parental Engagement -Grampian Mental Health Associates

A workshop was held for pupils and staff on the topic of stress and anxiety last session. Any suggestions for topics for the next workshop in March should be sent to Lisa Lees. Ideas included: body image, signs that things are not right, and ways to engage with children with respect to mental health.

7. Proposals for funding

- Outdoor area – nothing definite yet.

8. Other

8.1 Soap box challenge event at Crathes Castle – Tara Crooke asked if the school would like to be involved, possibly a good project for the Young Engineers group.

9. Date of next meeting - Monday 19th March 2018 at 7pm

Close 8.45pm

Dates of future meetings

Monday 19th March 2018 at 7pm

Tuesday 15th May 2018 at 7pm

Wednesday 20th June 2018 at 8pm

ACTION POINTS

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ACTION: 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.

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