

MPiP Minutes: Tuesday 10th November, 7pm, School Staff Room

1. Apologies:

Sarah Stephen, Pauline Stevenson, Ruth Scott, Lesley Buchan, Hazel Fraser, Donna Sim, Elaine Yeats

Attendance:

Leah McKinnon, Kathryn Michie, Alastair Beaton, Gary Donald, Estelle Winward, Jo Lord, Rebecca McLennan, Carol Harper, Jane Brown, Helena McKerron

2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Updates

The minutes of the last meeting were approved with no updates or amendments.

3. Matters Arising

- Review of Pupils Support Assistant Post (AB) Update in the monthly newsletter to parents regarding a survey on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council to review the remit/job specification of PSAs. Return date for responses is the 22 November, and parents are asked to provide feedback as to whether the current job specification for PSAs remains relevant for their tasks in schools.
Discussion followed regarding the current provision for PSA supervision of pupils in the playground, 15 mins prior to school starting. This is still felt to be a major strength and something that the management team of the school would look to maintain.
- Funding for P7 Trip (LMcK) Regarding a query from a parent about whether funding for the P7 Trip could be used to offset the cost of the Ardeonaig Residential Trip for parents who find this a financial burden. All classes are allocated a £200 allowance per annum for class trips and this includes P7 albeit last year their coach allowance remained unspent due to coaches being provided/funded by the Company being visited. The overall cost of the trip to Ardeonaig for the pupils who do not go could not be funded on an annual basis by MPiP however grants are available via Aberdeenshire Council for families who find the cost of the trip prohibitive. More information and application forms are available from the School Office. The overriding aim when making funding decisions is fairness to ensure that all children at the school benefit, whilst trying to maintain a degree of flexibility as matters arise.
- Restorative Approaches Year Group Rep Training (JB) Restorative practice is a key area for development in line with National Guidelines and part of the school Development Plan. It is a move away from punitive approached dealing with behaviour management and looking a more positive approach to teaching children about how to manage their behaviour. Staff will undertake training on the In-Service days in November, and this will then be cascaded down to House Captains/Vice Captains who will be involved in training younger pupils in this skill. There will be invitations to Year Group Reps and all parents to attend training and

hopefully cascade this information across the wider parent community. 1 or 2 training sessions will be offered and it is envisaged that this will be quite a lengthy process (up to 5 years to fully implement). Sessions will be offered both during the school day and in the evening. It is hoped that leaflets will be available by the end of the year, and the staff are keen to involve parents in the production of these. Further updates will take place in the monthly newsletter.

4. Head Teacher's Update

Staffing: On-going discussions with teachers on return from maternity leave; currently two members of staff are in the process of liaising regarding return to work/extension of leave. Karen Renwick is returning to school as job share with Maureen Young until the summer term, allowing Carol Harper to return to her substantive DHT post on a full-time basis for the remainder of the year (as planned in June). The Nursery is now fully staffed for the first time since December 2014, with two new appointments being made. This means that we are now able to offer extended provision support again for those families requiring support. The current position for an Admin/Clerical post has drawn a great deal of interest, with 108 applicants for the post. It is planned that interviews will take place before Christmas.

Roll: Remains stable at 355 pupils; the impact of the current oil recession has meant that projected growth has stalled for the time being. The Nursery will be operating at full capacity when the January cohort starts after Christmas.

Property: The computer suite conversion (due to be completed before the start of the new term) has still not been completed. An accessible sink was omitted from the work, and has yet to be installed. The interactive whiteboard was wall-mounted during the October holidays. There are on-going issues with the Wi-Fi provision, and ICT specialists have inspected the school to try and identify the issues and provide solutions. Staff availability and budget approvals for upgrading this provision remains with the Authority. The Sensory Room has been created, with equipment expected in due course. The equipment package is designed for pupils from Nursery-P7 and is standardised across the Authority.

5. Treasurer's Report

£695.50 raised from Cauliflower Cards

£84.95 profit currently from the Christmas Fayre (27 stalls confirmed)

£323.50 profit from the Halloween Disco

£76.12 (plus cheque handed in on the evening for £98.03) from Easyfundraising

£257.60 Rag Bag collections (excludes the 'big' collection of 5 November)

£440.60 Spree booklets

£104.50 House T-shirts

£339.45 Aberdeenshire Council

Current balance of £5818.11

There followed a discussion about the success of the Halloween disco, parents particularly enthusiastic about the event. Meeting on the 6th November to debrief on the event and begin planning for next year.

6. Fundraising Update

Donna Sim has offered to take on the role of Fundraising Co-Ordinator. This means that we are now looking for a new Group Rep Head). Preparation for the Christmas Fayre is underway, with discussion regarding table required for teachers/classes.

Publicity/donations/volunteers will be required and there is to be bag drop later this week to remind parents of the event with emails being sent over the next couple of weeks.

KM to email parents who have previously undertaken Face Painting to find out about availability. Facebook page to be updated with Easyfundraising details to encourage a 'push' on this before Christmas.

Philip Michie had discussed the possibility of running another Race Night (with MAIG) as a fundraiser and it was agreed that this was a successful and enjoyable event. There was discussion about the opportunity to hold a Bingo/Beetle Drive family event before the summer holidays.

7. Group Rep Update

No one available to provide update.

8. AOB

A parent had emailed a concern regarding congestion outside the school gates. Following on from many discussions over the last 15 months about the difficulties for staff in ensuring children were able to line up calmly and quietly at the start of the day, and problems in ensuring that children were being safely met at the end of the school day, a decision had been taken to ask parents to remain outside of the gates after the first bell – at 9.13 am, two minutes before the second bell at 9.15 am. School staff have reported that this is making the playground a much safer, calmer environment for the children. Children are coming in to school, in a sense, 'ready to learn'. However, it had been mentioned that some parents are blocking access into the school gate by standing in front of it in the morning, and are asked not to gather in this area and restrict access. Further benefits had been noted in the car park which is no longer as congested as parents are simply 'dropping off' rather than parking and waiting for children to enter the building. As the new system has only been operating for a number of weeks, it was felt that the initial response was largely positive, but that on-going evaluation of the changes would continue to take place. Mr Beaton advised that since advising of the changes in the September newsletter only two parents had

approached him with reservations. Since the introduction of the new system Mr Beaton further advised that feedback from parents has been very positive.

There is still no Vice-Chair of MPiP, and no volunteers as yet.

There will be a meeting of those involved in the fundraising group to arrange the Christmas Fayre (wb 16 November)

Next Meeting: Wednesday 13 January 2016