

Parent Council AGM

Attendees : Laura Ross, Fiona Green, Jane Gillies, Kenny Rogan, Kathryn Owen, Andy Norrie, Emma McGowan, Lyssa McBean, Jess Creber, Chenelle McMaster.

Joined Late – Anna Filipek, Domi Macklin.

Apologies – Fiona McGhee.

Kenny welcomed everyone to meeting, asked Chenelle to begin with HT report, how she feels things are going in term 1 and invited any questions/comments afterwards.

Chenelle indicated there had been a good start to the year, children had settled well into classes, particularly the P1s who seemed to be enjoying their new routines and from school POV things are going well.

There is currently a PSA vacancy within the school, 5 candidates are expected to interview on Monday and Chenelle hopeful they will find someone that will fit well into the team.

Diane Copland from nursery will be leaving the team to go to a new job elsewhere and she will be sorely missed having a very long service at Aviemore Nursery and having been a key part of the team and champion of the children shes looked after for many years. At present, unsure as to when post would be advertised/filled but expected this would happen shortly.

New Parents Evening in T1 has been trialled – this had been based o feedback from parents regarding interim reports and their usefulness and it was felt that meeting teachers would give parents an opportunity to share concerns for their child and start building a relationship between class and home.

Moving forward there will be face to face parents meetings held in T1 and T3 and open events (where parents are invited to come into the classroom and see their childs work) in T2 and T4.

Also wanted to highlight what a great job both the Pupil Council and Rights Respecting Achool Groups made of serving Tea/Coffees and biscuits during the first event and hopes this was well received by parents/carers.

The disco that was arranged and ran before the half term was to directly benefit the P7 Snowsports and was mostly arranged by that class, again, they did a great job and around £260 was raised.

This week P3/4 (Mrs TJ) have worked with the Path Pirates (local community group – check them out on Facebook) to maintain the paths and garden areas around school, thank you to the parents and carers who also came and supported this and especially to the children who worked very hard. Going forward Highland Council have a plan for taking on a contractor to maintain and tidy the area and to do maintenance of road signage including the pedestrian crossing which has been raised as an issue.

P7 residential ran this week at Active Outdoor Pursuits, Newtonmore – this is the first time this outfit had been used and the children are reported to have enjoyed their week, pushing and encouraging each other out of their comfort zones and have all done really well.

The school was also represented at the Shinty World Cup – a big thanks to the parents/carers who made it possible for their child to attend and to the coaches Sarah and Tom. The children represented the school well and the senior team in particular did well, winning in their division.

School Clubs are up and running including Netball with Ms Anderson and running club with Ms Davies.

Chenelle, along with Kathryn from the Sports Council Group have been in talks with MacDonalds resorts and a private swim instructor regarding reinstating these lessons in school – these talks will be ongoing.

Kenny thanked Chenelle and said that their family had appreciated the new parents evening and felt that sentiment would likely be echoed by others. Asked about the literacy and numeracy standards that had been discussed in previous meeting (April) and how she felt these were progressing within school?

Literacy and Numeracy are the two key areas of the School Improvement Plan. Raising achievement for children with Highland Council Training – Literacy For All and working on the gaps that have been identified in particular classes. With ASN teacher being unable to take out targeted groups of children, this is falling to class teacher so extra support has been welcome. P4 teachers are using the National Writing Improvement Framework, as there has been no capacity for ASN teachers to help some PEF (pupil equity funding) has been allocated to allow Mrs Creber to take on some of the work of focussing on smaller groups.

School is using 'Numeracy Sprinkles' - drip feeding numeracy into classrooms, not just teaching new concepts but cementing those the pupils should already know, helping pupils to revise topics regularly and become more comfortable with them. HC Numeracy advisor helping staff with strategies for recall and how to embed this within class teaching for the children. Anything to add Mrs Creber?

JC - Reiterated that Nat Writing Framework being used with P3/4 classes - these are the building blocks of writing, really taking things back to basics. Have reviewed where children were at and where gaps were - these have been identified as punctuation and conjunctions so this is what is being looked at this term. Feedback from children and staff has been really positive.

KR - When does evaluation come for this?

JC - Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSAs) for P1, 4, 7s at beginning of term 2.

Scottish Online Formative Assessments (SOFA) for rest of classes will be done around the same time.

This also gives data for where the gaps are again and is done early enough to give an indication of where children are sitting and what we can do to help early.

Laura Ross : Financial Report (Attached)

Would like to thank all of the local businesses for their generosity and contributions, especially those who consistently donate towards the likes of Christmas Presents etc.

Future Expenditure - Banner for Summer Fun Event, Books for Reading Schools Initiative, Swimming Lessons.

CM discussed briefly whether some kind of fund could be set up for swimming lessons where parents perhaps could not afford the additional cost of these (as they will not be covered by Highland Council). Agreed this was something that would be discussed when lessons were in place.

Chair Report, written by Fiona McGhee, delivered in absentia by Kenny Rogan.

With the turning of the year app added 3 new members to the PC team - Kenny, Fiona and Verity. Verity broke the nationwide Parent Council (PC) record by only lasting 14 hours but her bubbly personality had an impression on us all - we also learned that no staff members could be PC members - Verity continues to be an avid helper to PC and we are very grateful.

Work pressures, growing families, personal demands and the economic crises had a bit of impact on the team and some of our initial fundraising ideas unfortunately weren't possible - thus highlighting the strength to have a 'team' around the council and we are keen to carry this on, with a planned yearly overlap of recruiting members - we are hopeful this will be considered tonight and I would encourage all parents to become part of the team.

Throughout the year we enjoyed what have become some regular PC events - bike to school, school discos and jolly Santa visits - this is now hopefully embedded and will continue as part of the school calendar.

Class WhatsApp groups continue to be a hit, especially for the disorganised parent - these groups have now branched out from just school updates and are considered a good way to meet new parents and arrange social activities for kids and parents alike.

The turn of year brought the wonderful Chenelle to the forefront - although PC knew her as acting head it had been a pleasure to be part of her journey as acting head teacher. She is such a kind, thoughtful person and Aviemore primary are lucky to have her in our team.

(Kenny reiterated this sentiment)

I as CO chair met with Chenelle on a more 1:1 basis and I think we both agreed that going forward a meeting with the head teacher and PC members could be of benefits to both parties – allowing more sensitive information to be shared and building a therapeutic relationship thus adding strength to PC and to the school. I would personally encourage this to take place each term with acknowledgement to information sharing and trust.

The summer fun night is hard to think of without thinking of the rain. It's almost comical the two extremes - extreme heat to extreme rain - what will next year bring? Snow?

A lot of hard work and organising (especially from Lyssa) went into this and despite the rain it absolutely paid off with a whopping £3636?? Raised!

Thanks to the insight of Kenny, this was the first year that many parents realised the coloration between PC and school trips - this made an almighty impact and is hopefully a seed to grow upon for future fund raising events. Subject to further discussion with the school, we hope to include a winter fundraising event too.

The PC funded and structured the reading room which I know many, particularly one of my own, loves to attend. Building on the local networks from Waterstones who donate and advise on books regularly- thank you Kelly!

Sports club continues and is working closely with the school to make an exclusive sports day for all - including a competitive running race within the year group and the almighty parents race - feed back to this is going to be monitored and used for next year's sports day.

I would love to see sports day medals continue. The delight on some of the medal winners faces is something that will last a lifetime for me.

We are hoping to introduce a 'Cairngorm Cup' with the local feeder schools to include a morning of competitive sports – watch this space.

We are encouraging and aiding the school to bring back swimming lessons as a mandatory part of education and are positive we will see results this academic year.

Miss Anderson has become the sports club link for communication and we absolutely love her enthusiasm. The importance of sports is at the forefront of the sports club and we encourage parents to please join the WhatsApp group for updates and to combine ideas – we are hoping to grow and develop this club throughout the year. (Link for Sports Club WhatsApp can be found on PC Facebook page or see Fiona McGhee/Kathryn Owen who can add you in there)

I hope I have covered everything and want to thank you all for being part of my PC journey. I hope the school and PC continue to see my vision of adding a holistic approach to the PC and to see every child's individual needs.

I'm sure I will return again before the McGhees depart Aviemore Primary.

Kenny thanked Fiona for her time as Chair and her contribution to Parent Council, she will be missed as a member but we already look forward to her return!

KR: Chat about fundraiser for Christmas - feels wise to have new council members in place before any decisions made on fundraising calendar for this academic year.

CM: Any feedback on Sports Day?

KR/LM: Feedback about more competitive races positive, children were keen to compete amongst their year group and definitely think this was a good thing. Some feedback from parents regarding whole day event - notice this may already have been addressed with decision on school calendar to hold event on a Friday, so hopefully this will alleviate issues for parents.

Some chat around fundraising at Sports Day, BBQ had been discussed with Sports Group. Both CM and JC felt that Bake Sale had worked well and that BBQ may be too formal?

KO: Suggested a bring a Picnic/Family Picnic Style Event.

CM: Had not run 'Big School Picnic' last year which is often well attended and enjoyed by parents so this is something that from school POV would work well.

- Council/Sports Group to discuss.

Appointments/Departures

Kenny explains what he's found from joining PC. Good PC really adds value to school, can mean the difference between children having and not having some of the really crucial memory making experiences. Not the biggest commitment in terms of time, particularly when other parents are engaged and willing to help - chat on WhatsApp group and one meeting per term.

Standing down - Fiona McGhee as Chair, Lyssa McBean as Secretary and Laura Ross as Treasurer.

LM - brief overview of role as secretary.

Andy Norie willing to help in secretary role. Nominated by Kenny, seconded by Fiona Green.

No other attendees standing for office bearer roles but many echoing sentiment of help where needed - JG, use of parents in supporting roles may be a way to ease burden for committee members, always happy to help.

Laura Ross agreed to stay on as treasurer at present.

Discussion about how to encourage parental engagement/joining parent council.

Suggestion of actions to take forward - Flyer Home in School Bags/Attending School Events/Kids Impact - do you know?

AOB

AF - apologies for being late to meeting. Wanted to discuss fundraising for nursery specifically. APologises, unable to take official role on council as adding to family and feels may not have time to commit. Feels nursery teachers often buying own resources for children and would like to hold nursery specific fundraiser.

KR - thanked Anna for coming along, definitely good to see nursery parents here. Would happily support nursery fundraiser and happy to discuss further any ideas AF may have.

- Future Action - Nursery Fundraiser

KO, Sports Group - Has been involved in meetings with CM re Swim Lessons and feels these are really positive. Also looking at having full size Netball Court marked on pitch and may apply for Tesco/Spar/Coop funding for this so may need support from PC with applications.

Meeting ended. Thanks to everyone for coming.

Next Meeting TBC but hoped will be held in person at next school Open Event, Term 2.

