



St Andrews Parent Council (StAPC) – Minutes of 7 May 2019

Present:

AR – Alison Reid (Chair), KF1 – Karen Foubister (Secretary), LB – Laura Booth, RM – Rachael Moar (Parent Reps), MT - Mark Taylor (Head Teacher), NC - Norman Craigie (OIC Councillor)

AR welcomed everyone along to the meeting.

Apologies:

Gaby Barnby, Michelle Morris, Andrew Drever, Steve Sankey, Sarah Tait and Lianne Henry

1. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2019 were approved by RM and seconded by AR.

2. Matters Arising

- AR reported that the money for the school photos has now been sorted
- AR hasn't yet contacted James Wylie re: meeting with parents, but has started an email to him and wishes to discuss an approach tonight
- It was agreed that the StAPC will fund the Primary Indoor League football at £10 per player as requested by Gaby previously. All agreed that the football is inclusive of all pupils of different abilities and is a positive activity within the school.

Action:

- **AR to continue working on an email to James Wylie**
- **Lianne to discuss the fees issue with Gaby and the school office to possibly provide support with chasing payment of fees**

3. Head Teacher Updates

Support for Learning

- MT explained as much as he could about staffing and support in school for the new Autumn term. Angela Hancock's hours in St Andrews have been cut by 0.5 days per week. It is still unclear how her allocation of hours will work. MT has submitted a request for SFL classroom support for the new term but is unaware at this point what will be allocated. He is therefore

unable to clarify SFL staffing. He predicted that his bid for support using Criteria 3 will be unsuccessful as this was the case at the start of the last academic year. MT reminded us of the criteria for support on which he formulated his requests for SFL resources:

- Children and young people with the most complex needs where the deployment of additional staffing resources is essential to their school attendance.
- Children and young people who present a physical (health and safety) risk to themselves, other learners and staff where this risk can be managed through the deployment of additional staffing.
- Classes or groups where the combinations and number of needs indicate that learning can only be managed by the deployment of additional staffing.

We asked the question: *“What is the point of the 3rd criteria if HTs submit requests for support, but support is not granted?”* We agreed that this will also be an important question for James Wylie.

- As a result of limited SFL provision, MT has made some difficult decisions about P1/2 composite classes in consultation with Morag Miller, school improvement officer. He is aware that some parents are unhappy with the decisions and he is meeting with parents to discuss concerns and reassure parents regarding their child’s specific needs. We had a general discussion about the importance of encouraging parents with concerns to attend any future consultation with James Wylie.

The Newsletter/ The Gathering

- MT went through the newsletter. The Gathering was a huge success. Thanks goes to Jenny, Douglas, StAPC for supporting the idea for the new venue. Feedback has been extremely positive.

School Extension

- Progress is slow. Contract documents are currently being put together. We may see a start in October and test holes for the ground source heating are to be done this week. Ian Rushbrook is confident that a contractor will be in place in October and the nursery expansion programme is adding pressure.

Reporting

- MT circulate a draft format for the new interim report and stated that there will be significant input from the pupils and time allowed to gather this together.
- It’s hoped that SeeSaw will provide a consistent online learning journal in the future to ensure continuous feedback to parents; however, it isn’t being used to it’s full potential at present and isn’t consistent across all classes.
- MT will devise a survey to get views on the amended format once the reports are released on 20th June.
- Parents evenings are next week over two evenings. Letters have gone out.

Actions:

- Parent Council helpers required for parents evening (teas and coffees in the hall and manning the Scholastic book sale) and Gaby to run the lucky squares for football.
- It was suggested that PC members could discuss the SFL concerns with parents and establish the level of interest in attending a meeting with James Wylie and also the level of interest and support for parent reps in each class

4. Fundraising

AR has met with MM to complete an application for the Blue Door. Michelle has also organised the buy-in of tea towel keepsakes for pupils. She is liaising with class teachers to get drawings submitted. It is thought that the StAPC will order a set amount and sell them on for a profit, yet to be decided. Michelle also intends to start the ball rolling with Xmas cards after the summer holidays.

5. Fun Day

- Agreed to hold separate organising meeting(s) to plan this event
- Provisional date set of Sunday 23rd June
- Gaby is planning a 'beat the goalie' fundraiser for the football
- Other ideas discussed were – classes to hold games and a table top sale/ car boot sale

Action

- Arrange a fun-day-planning meeting

6. Correspondence

- Aaron Cowieson has resigned as Vice Chair and PC rep. Thanks to Aaron for his input and hard work.
- Letter received from St Andrew's and Deerness Community Council agreeing to fund the £60 requested for busses to the concert rehearsal. Letter to be forwarded to the school office to arrange payment.
- Emails received from Holm Community Council to state that they meet on 8th May, when they will decide on our application for a further £60.

Action

- KF to hand the funding letter in to the office

7. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 11th June 2019 at 6:00pm