

MINUTES

Lairhillock Parent Council

7.30pm Tuesday 30th April 2024. via Zoom

ATTENDEES

Stewart Crabb	Jaclyn Philip	Jenna Patterson
Caroline Hayden	Sarah Benzie	Diane Abel
Monica Tait	Sarah Fraser	Jacqueline Dewhurst
Christine Parker	Francesca Philp	Michelle Johnson
Amy Cox		

APOLOGIES

Kate Emshoff Donagh Costello,

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Caroline Hayden proposed the previous set of minutes (6th February 2024) for approval.
Seconded by Sarah Benzie

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Correspondences - Report from Caroline Hayden and Sarah Benzie

Christine McLennan (Education Support Officer – Parental Engagement and Learner Participation) has shared the following:

1. **Digital Parenting Sessions – link to a recorded session**

In March we offered two sessions for parents on supporting children in growing up online. These were very popular but some people were not able to attend at the particular times and dates we offered. We have therefore created a recorded version of the session which can be accessed using the Youtube link below. Please pass this on to your parents for their interest.

<https://youtu.be/XKKaX-HS9i0>

2. National Parent Forum Scotland/Parent Group – any volunteers from Primary or Special School Parent Councils?

I am resharing this email with you all to see if there is anyone interested in being part of a small parent group to represent parents in Aberdeenshire. This group could

- form the representation of the National Parent Forum Scotland for Aberdeenshire
- be involved in the Aberdeenshire Parental Engagement strategic group
- meet informally with Christine McLennan on any parental engagement matters

Ideally the group would have representation from parents with pupils in Primary, Secondary and Special Schools. We currently have volunteers from Secondary Parent Councils but are still looking for volunteers from both Primary and Special School Parent Councils.

If you would like to be involved please email me at christine.mclennan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk and we can arrange a Teams meeting to discuss this further. It is not anticipated that there would be a significant time commitment in being involved in this.

3. Aberdeenshire Council Parent Survey - have your say in shaping Parental Engagement in Aberdeenshire.

(Please share with all parents. This will also be shared with your school and through our Corporate Communications Team)

Parents and carers are the most important influence on children's lives. We would like you to share your views with us about the engagement you have with your child's school in areas such as communication, your child's learning, your involvement as parents and family learning by completing this short survey. The survey link is below. We will use your responses in our next steps in improving our work with families and to inform and review our strategy and action plan on ParentalEngagement. Completion of the survey is optional and no personal identifying information will be collected. Each school's results will be shared with them to support their ongoing work on Parental Engagement. The survey will be open from Monday 22nd April until Monday 13th May 2024.

<https://forms.office.com/e/c8D766smMW>

If you would prefer to have a paper copy of the survey posted to you, please email christine.mclennan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey - your feedback is appreciated.

KDP: As building works progress in the local area, funding opportunities may arise with the focus being on a more usable outdoor area for the pupils to access all year round. Current drainage issues are restricting the use of the grass area immensely.

Boccia set: Mrs Strachan has requested a Boccia set at around £250. LPC is happy for school to source a suitable set for us to purchase.

Class Trips: P1 to Crathes Castle on 24th May - £5 per child, LPC to subsidise £185. Learning will involve a tour of the castle followed by teacher led learning on '**Living Things**'

Expect P3/4 and P4/5 requests to come in soon

Uncertainty whether P7 will be having a trip or yearbooks or either. Possible misconception as to who is responsible – parents or teachers. Jaclyn will circulate communication with P7 parents and feedback any action required from LPC.

Mr Crabb will discuss with nursery in regards to plans for any upcoming trips.

HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

Head Teacher Report - Mr Stewart Crabb

P7 Residential

Successful P7 visit to school camp. Wonderful to hear that standards of behaviour from our school had been very high.

Student Council

Chose Alzheimer's Scotland and will be organising a one-off fundraising event this term. Our other fundraising event will be the Sponsored Walk.

Staffing and Classes

Numbers are currently looking like 120 however we have the potential of 4 new children depending on the outcome of house sales. If Aberdeenshire Council opt not to allocate 6 classes then we'll only have 1 space in the whole school. Hope to hear by the end of next week. Miss Scott will be leaving us as she comes to the end of her probationary year. Whether we have another probationer depends on the 5/6 classes situation. Mrs Moir will be returning to us after maternity leave in August for 2 days a week. Once we have the number of classes we will start to engage with parents as we draft new class lists. P1 induction will then begin.

Read, Write, Inc

Now fully operational for P1-P3/4. The book the group is doing in school doesn't physically go home but parents can access this through the online system. However, we have recently purchased a set of alternative readers which will go home for extra practice. These are based on the sounds and words being undertaken with the books in school. In response to requests at our last PC meeting, we managed to arrange an information session for parents on the Open Day and hope that was helpful.

P6 Group

Managed to obtain funding for P6s to be involved in a special project which brings together filming, music, sound and art. Over a number of sessions they'll be involved in producing a film and work started this morning with a visual arts, theatre and film company from Moray called Wildbird. They are going to be busy because thanks to parent volunteers, they also have bikeability coming up in May as well.

Anti Bullying Policy

We've had a working group of parents to help give feedback on where we need to go with a draft anti bullying policy and this term will work with parents and staff to produce an updated policy and procedures statement.

Improvement Planning

We have made very good progress with our Improvement Plan this year. This is the development work that we plan to undertake each year. We won't complete all we had planned but certainly will have achieved the majority.

Just2Easy ?

Teachers feel it's not as successful as SeeSaw and they're saying that across Aberdeenshire. We're told it will improve and become more like SeeSaw but it doesn't seem to be there yet. What do parents think ?

- Parents felt that there could be more consistency across the school in how the app is used. For example, providing stars for achievements and the level of teacher/ pupil input.

Funds:

- Class trips - see above
- We need to be mindful of expectations on families for fundraising, T4 is very busy with a variety of activities in school. Summer social will take place in September rather than this term.
- LPC happy to contribute to library seats upholstering, fabric and time line to be confirmed.
- It would be a good idea to create a list of where raised funds have been spent so that there is accountability from LPC and for keeping the Lairhillock community motivated and focused on continuing to support our children.
- Perhaps explore further, the idea of having a tin on display at the sports day alongside this information for people to contribute and loose change if they wish.

Parent Council:

- A leaflet showing what LPC do for the school with parent funding would be advantageous.
- Recruitment of at least 2 more office bearers as well as additional parent council members would be very much appreciated.
- Include an information/ 'recruitment drive' at the family welcome/ social event shortly prior to the AGM in September.
- Changes in the way we operate have been suggested – more meetings in person (with ability to dial in) rather than online at 7pm. This would give an increased sense of community and social aspect.
- Days and times are negotiable.

Defibrillator Training:

- 8th May at 6.30pm in the function suite in Cammies.
- This will be run by St John's ambulance
- All welcome (including school teachers, staff)

End of Year Events:

30th May sports day:

- Monica will put a form out to devise a rota and gauge interest in home-bake providers.
- An honesty box/ self service system would be good to allow everyone the chance to observe children's events. However, some level of supervision will be required due to safety around hot urns.
- A card reader should also be available.

Sponsored Walk 12th June:

- Ice cream van to celebrate completion of the walk with families.
- Monica will communicate with companies and arrange their attendance - this has now been confirmed and the van will attend for 11am.

Thursday 4th July for P7 show

Summer Social weekend event:

- Sat 7th Sept so that we can also welcome new families to the school.
- Plan to have a picnic (BYO) and games type of event.
- Details should ideally be shared with families before the end of T4.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING/ EVENT

AGM 7pm Thursday 12th September at LPS.

Xmas Fayre Sunday 24th November.