

Minutes of the Parent Teacher Association Meeting – 3rd October 2018

Attendees: Mrs Jones, Miss Morrison, Jill Harvey, Jill Brennan, Lela Wilson, Shona Richards, Fiona Heffernan, Francis Reid, Elaine Taylor, Gillian Bain **[TBC/Update]**

Apologies: Susan Strachan, Rev Petrie, Rachael Bernard **[TBC/Update]**

Minutes: Jill Brennan

1. Previous Minutes

Mrs Jones noted that no minutes had been shared since 2017. It was discussed that **[Sharon?]** can put them on the school website if the PTA share them with her and copy in Mrs Jones.

2. MacMillan Coffee Morning

The event raised £130 by selling a number of delicious cakes at the Drop Off, Drop In session open on Friday mornings **8.30-9.30 [confirm timings]**.

3. Parental Support

Mrs Jones raised a number of items that would benefit from parental support/input.

- Improvement plan focussed on reading. The school now has parent volunteers coming in to school to sit with groups in classes while reading as well as helping in the library. There has been a fantastic response on this topic so a big thank you to everyone who has gotten involved.
- Organising parental help with school trips. It was agreed that using the Parent Council Class Representatives is often more efficient than using a Group Call when sourcing help for specific class activities.
- Mrs Jones has drawn up a list of activities that parents can help with. This will be ever changing and will be shared online.

4. Funding Requests

- P4 are currently learning about the rainforest and would like to visit the Winter Gardens in the Duthie Park which offer free workshops for the children including a Tropical Trail which enables the children to learn about humidity. The cost of the bus to get the class there (£95) was approved.
- The nursery would like to take the children to see Night Light at The Lemon Tree and requested the cost of their deposit (£100) for the tickets which was approved.

It was agreed that wherever PTA funding had been given, evidence of the experience/learning opportunities would be shared via photographs etc in newsletters and on the information screen at the reception area.

The school is working with Adventure Aberdeen and is looking to have staff/core volunteers qualify in the Mountain Leaders course which will enable classes to have trips to places like Scottie Hill.

5. Vibrant Libraries Vibrant Schools

The school features on this brochure and the work the children have been doing in the library and with the Hazlehead Secondary School library. The brochure will be made available for parents to view online.

6. Sports Gold Award

We are currently the only school in Aberdeen to win a second award. A huge thank you to Wendy Carrick for helping us get this prestigious second award.

7. Garden/Outdoor Space

The school has again been voted as "Outstanding" for the Keep Scotland Beautiful awards. We will continue with the garden work and have three retired teachers coming to help design and create an outdoor learning area. Daniel from Hazlehead gardens will provide advice and work with the school to come up with specific action to allow volunteers to help us achieve our vision. ConocoPhillips and Nexen have both committed to working with the school in improving our outdoor space.

8. Curriculum Evening

One of the school's educational social workers Nicola Logan ran a workshop as part of the P1 curriculum evening looking at parental skills and the work she can do. She is looking to organise a session for 15-20 parents in January as a pilot. Feedback from the parents who attended the evening was excellent.

9. Playground Equipment Safety

It was brought to the PTA's attention the safety risk of the children hanging upside down from the bars in the playground. It was agreed to highlight the safe way to use the bars by engaging with the pupil council, talking about it in assembly and letting parents know by including it in a newsletter.

10. Class Representatives

There are still two outstanding class reps for Miss Ferguson and Mr Blairs classes. If you would like to become a class representative for either class, please let the school know. It was agreed that the phone numbers and emails of the class reps would be removed from the contact list available online for privacy issues. A clipboard will be available outside each classroom for parents to note down their details if they wish to join their child's class rep group via Whats App (or email).

11. Fundraising

The total target for this year will be £10,000.

Upcoming fundraising events:

- Book Fair – 9th/10th October
- School Disco – 1st November
- Family Disco/Christmas Jumper Night – 6th December
- Christmas Hampers

Twenty Google Chrome Books and four Ipod Touches have been purchased with money from the parent council at a cost of £5,300.

12. Online Safety

The previous event wasn't very well attended but will be covered under the Health and Wellbeing section of the curriculum evening.

13. Health Improvement Fund

There is up to £2,500 per project available from the fund upon successful application. It must be within Aberdeen city and applications must be in by 22nd November. Mrs Jones will be looking at whether the changes to the outdoor learning space could qualify for a grant from the fund.

14. Steph's Chefs

Funding by the Parent Council was approved to allow all P5/P6/P7 children to enjoy this experience of cooking.

15. Parent Council Roles

A list of the roles and responsibilities has been drawn up and will be made available online. The Fundraising Chair position is currently vacant. Please get in touch with the school if you would be interested in taking up this position.

16. Spree Books

Although later this year, the Spree Books will be for sale and can generate extra revenue for the school. Information will be sent home once available.

17. Playground Benches

These have been recently painted and some volunteers were requested to help finish the update.

18. Math Table Resources

There are resources on each table to help the children understand and visualise math problems and solutions. Some help was requested to copy and laminate these resources.

19. Car Boot

A request to Mrs Jones as to whether the school car park could be used to hold a car boot sale by parents whereby you pay the school for the pitch. Mrs Jones will follow this up with Robertsons to see if this is possible. To be held on a Sunday morning around April 2019 if permission is given by Robertsons.