

DRUMOAK SCHOOL COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting – 16th January 2018

PRESENT: G Robertson, P Wilson, V Stewart, M Slater, J Johnson, M McNeil, V Anderson, K Lennox, K Warren, R Hutcheon,

APOLOGIES: F Thomson, J Currie, N Reith, G McPetrie, L MacKinnon, S Smithers, M Fraser

The minutes of the last meeting were approved by email, in advance of the meeting.

Engaging the Wider Community

Topic for tonight's meeting as agreed at November 2017 meeting. Currently the school engages successfully with the Friendship Group, Drum Castle, Mains of Drum, the Church and the local Post Office. The group discussed what other opportunities there may be – potentials included the farming community, wider Banchory community, Park Estate and Easter Anguston. It was felt currently working to expand on the existing relationships may be most appropriate. Engagement need to be of relevance to the pupils. Marion McNeil agreed to approach Amy Wilson from the Friendship group (FG) to explore potential for developing a relationship between pupils and the members of that group. Currently only P7's meet with the FG in their last year. It was discussed that it may be beneficial for both groups if this could start in P5 which would allow more contact.

Action MMc

Marion Slater recalled that she had seen a psychiatrist in England bringing dementia patients into schools and it had been very positive for both groups. MS agreed to follow up and explore this potential. MMc will pass on details of the Forget me Not Club in Banchory.

Action
MS/MMc

Marion McNeil suggested a visit to the Church to see the ongoing building works. MMc will talk with Jean.

Action MMc

Developing Young Workforce

This will be a joint session between Drumoak, Crathes and Drumoak for P6 and 7 pupils, to be held on afternoon of 26th September. Plan is for a 'speed dating' type format, with perhaps 8-10 individuals from different walks of life to spend time with groups of pupils for up to approx. 10 minutes. Pupils can select who they would like to talk with. Volunteers were requested to help find individuals willing to participate. VA, JJ, GR volunteered. RH volunteered as teach representative on the group.

Action
VA/JJ/GR/RH

Drumoak School Facebook Page

Melissa Fraser is working on the Facebook Page. Only assigned members would contribute to the page, it would not be a forum for anyone to contribute, but there would be a private message available for anyone wishing to contact the group. It is hoped that it can be used to reach out to the school community, share information and hopefully attract more contributions with specific activities on the agenda.

School Council Logo

Logo is ready to use. Thanks to Jenny Currie for working on this.

Fundraising Report

- The term before Christmas was very successful with the cinema night, Christmas cards and the prize draw.
- Burns Supper tickets still available.
- The current balance is very healthy – final number to be confirmed after checks to ensure all expected transactions have been included (e.g. moneys from commission from the school photographs).
- Next film night will be planned for when Paddington Bear 2 is released on DVD – expected by March.
- Volunteers for the valentines disco will be managed through the fundraising committee.

Action JJ

Head Teacher's Report

- PW thanked all those who helped to make the Christmas parties and shows a success.
- Nursery sweatshirts – will be royal blue with small school logo and word 'nursery' underneath.
- P7 Sweatshirts – need a volunteer to coordinate, preferably someone with a child in P7. Need to be ready for last term – April 17th.
- Christmas show recording. PW has the recording but not the software to edit and move to DVD. Looking for a volunteer to take this task please.
- Education Scotland Bill Consultation. No volunteers came forward to help PW with this. PW gave a summary of the Bill. Key areas were the Head Teachers Charter; Parental and Community Engagement; Pupil Participation; Regional Improvement Collaboration and Workforce Collaboration. Further information can be found within the document that has already been sent around the group.
- Positive Behaviour Booklet to be issued with input from the pupil council.
- There are 3 ongoing issues with the school building that PW is managing. Firstly the heating, there are cold and hot spots through the school caused by issues with the underfloor heating. Secondly the whiteboards can be temperamental and not working as planned. Lastly the timers on the doors are also temperamental. All these issues are being progressed.
- Still no caretaker – note has been put on Drumoak School facebook page and is still advertised.
- Scottish National Standardisation Assessment (SNSA) – assessments for P7 (February), P4 (March) and P1 (May). These will not be made a big deal of for the pupils – no pressure.
- Cricket equipment to be bought with the money left raised from the Illuminator Run (approx. £300).
- PW suggested purchasing equipment to initiate a cooking club. We have the space but not the equipment. Agreement was reached that this can be explored further and School Council funds would be available.
- School funds are currently very low for consumables. It was agreed that School Council funds could be used to pay upcoming photocopying bill.
- Local Authority is providing £4500 for computer refresh. School keen to spend some money on classroom sets for iPad, with an aim for 1 iPad per 2 pupils. It was agreed that if required some School Council funds could be put towards this. No firm request made at this meeting.

Correspondence

- PE T-Shirts – quotes had been received from an external supplier. PW took an action to check with the current School Uniform Supplier to see what they can offer then it could all be done as same school uniform order.
- Winter Safety – another reminder for taking care on icy mornings. Playground had been very icy for an extended period but it was recognised that very difficult to manage this in a continued freeze/thaw/freeze scenario. Care needs to be taken by parents and pupils. Issue has been observed with a small number of cars ignoring the zebra crossings. PW informed the group it is not a legal requirement to stop at the crossings. Care needs to be taken by all.

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AOCB

- KL raised a potential for a music club and will look into this further.
- GR suggested the possibility of a running event for the pupils and families (similar to an event organised by Monymusk School Parent Council). VS took an action to look into this.

Action KL

Action VS

Next Meeting – Tuesday 6th March 2018, 7.00 pm