



PRESENT: M Slater, V Anderson, V Stewart, P Wilson, M McNeil, K Lennox, L Mackinnon, N Reith, G Robertson, L Cowie, M Fraser, J Currie, G McPetrie, S Smithers

APOLOGIES: K Warren, J Johnson

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

Feedback from Survey

JC shared the results of the survey – separate report will be emailed once finalised, taking account of some late returns.

71 responses were received, representing a very high percentage of the school population. JC to finalise, and add a 'next steps' statement, before the report is shared with the parent forum.

The responses were largely positive, with no stand-out issues for immediate attention.

ACTION JC &
PW

School Improvement Plan

PW discussed the main priorities for next session's School Improvement Plan, this will be finalised this term and a document issued:

- Numeracy – teaching and learning. Working together with the other small schools in the cluster group.
- Moderation cycle – planning for learning and teaching and feedback.
- As part of the wider Banchory Cluster Group – review of provision for ASN (Additional Support Needs).
- School council to support with Developing the Young Workforce Initiative, beginning with the Careers event on 28 September.
- Emotional Literacy – eg Decider Skills, as shared by GR at previous meeting. Nurture Club on Wednesdays. Jill Birch (Forest Schools) – Emotion Works input. All aimed at supporting resilience and giving strategies to cope when lacking confidence.

Developing the Young Workforce/Career Event Planning

Morning event on 28 September, for Durris, Crathes and Drumoak, hosted by Drumoak.

Durris have successfully gathered some volunteers for this, sub group to make contact with potential contributors.

School council e-mail address to be given so that responses can be collated centrally – GM happy to gather this information and pass on.

Jazz award scheme in the pipeline for later in the year.

After this initial event, the sub group will consider the bigger picture and a way forward for Developing the Young Workforce.

ACTION JJ,
VA, GR

Fundraising Report

The fair raised £2513.42 – all were thanked for their efforts with particular mention to Allen Robertson's Woodwork stall and the Fraser's BBQ.

The fundraising team will get together next session, to plan ahead.

Treasurer's Report

A very successful year of fundraising, over £6000 raised this year, with the balance at £8700.

Most members felt that, with such a healthy sum, some larger items could be developed for outdoor areas – SS shared suggestions for climbing equipment and improvements for the nursery playground. All were in agreement with this and SS will pursue. PW explained some limitations to be aware of – any combustible structures must be 8m from the building and must be fixed to the ground, by a contractor approved by the authority. It was felt that there was enough funding to also spend on something for the primary year groups and something for the P7 area also – SS and NR to take this forward and investigate, communicating with Lairhillock who have some items already in place which may be of interest.

PW shared the school's wish list, which was agreed - £4000 will be given (PW to give NR itemised list) to cover:

- Buses

ACTION SS &
NR

- Sports day medals
- Homework diaries
- Cooking equipment and ovens
- Bins
- Knockburn trip for Golden Apple winners
- Bee-Bots
- Reading texts for P7 (to complete the new Big Cat scheme)
- Photocopying Costs
- Playground items due to wear and tear

Head Teacher's Report

The school's 'wish list' was discussed (see above)

An increase in roll has allowed for 6 classes and an additional probationer teacher (Miss Bethany Smith), next session, the projected roll is 121. This has allowed for small classes in the middle stages. Pupils will meet their new teachers on Friday. Although the school roll has increased, the nursery sessions are becoming smaller, so it's likely that the increase in the number of classes will be a temporary one and that we may return to 5 classes in future years. PW thanked the School Council for their continued hard work and support, commenting on the number of volunteers being very encouraging.

The celebration of the year will take place in the last week of term, PW asked if the football club wished to present trophies, LM advised that this will be done at a separate event, during training. LM to ask Scott Bichan if they wish to mention the main winners of these, but the presentations will already have been done.

ACTION LM

AOCB

- Lyn Cowie will take on the role of treasurer, next session.
- Some items in the constitution were discussed, in line with Aberdeenshire Council's suggested format – the constitution will be reviewed at the AGM, GM to bring copies.
- All items purchased with money raised by the School Council will be labelled, making it obvious where the money from fundraising is spent and hopefully encouraging continued support at fundraising events – KW has created stickers for this. It was also suggested that items could be photographed each time they are purchased, and the images shared online, making it clearer to everyone.
- It was mentioned that there was a little confusion now that there are multiple facebook groups which suggest they are all linked to Drumoak School. GR to ask Audrey Reid, who created the original page, if it can be closed or the name of it be changed to avoid confusion. The new school council page is preferred as it is limited to parents of the school and the contributors are School Council Members.
- This led to discussion about the school website which requires some attention. GM is happy to take this on and will liaise with PW to be given access.
- We continue to seek a chair and community member. MM is happy to continue as community member but feels there may be someone else out there with more time to give, in which case she would be happy to stand down. Members to keep up the search, over summer.
- LM shared photographs of the children in South Africa sporting our old football strips, these were donated to a Soccer Academy for township children in Cape Town.

ACTION GM

ACTION GR

ACTION GM & PW

Next Meeting – Tuesday 11 September, 6.00 pm

AGM – Tuesday 11 September, 7.00 pm