

CULTS PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Monday 18th January 2015 7- 9pm

Staff Room, Cults Primary School

Attendees:

Rachel Soplantila(RS) Chair; Sonya Angus(SA) Vice Chair; Caroline Johnstone (CJ) Headteacher; Anna Muirhead(AM) Headteacher, Cults Academy; Brian Angus(BA) Depute Headteacher Cults Academy; Blanche Handsley (BH); Jillian Christie (JC); Alison Thomson (AT); Margaret Cairnie (MC); Joyce Horsfall (JH); Emma Gillibrand (EG); Karin Rokstad (KR); Linda Murray (LM); Tiana Walker Treasurer (TW); Vannin Bloch (VB); Norma Davidson (ND); Natalie Keen (NK); Helane Gannicliffe(HG), Marie Gilbert(MG), Julie Simpson(JS), Rene Grobbelaar(RG), Kirsteen McGuire(KMc), Katharine Haque (KH); David Maclure (DMc); Noel Shearer (NS); Donna Cuthill (DC); Nadira Campbell(NC); Pamela Dagleish (PD); Shona Hamilton (SH); Julie Anderson (JA); Laura Haxton (LH); Morven Mackay (MMc) Depute Headteacher; Barbara Norris (BN); Helen Kennedy (HK); Madiha Jawad (MJ); Jawad Saqlain (JS); Alison Murray (AM); Daniel Venhamme (DV); Denise McDougall (DMc); Gillian Broadbent (GB); Phillippa Smith(PS) Minutes; Hannah Mearns (HM) Minutes.

Apologies:

Agenda items	Updates and discussions	Action
1.	<p><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></p> <p>Acceptance of minutes from previous meeting. RS gave thanks for the tremendous support and generosity for Charity Appeals at the end of last term. There was a huge response to the Coats for Christmas Appeal. A large number of excellent quality items were distributed within the city and were very gratefully received. 2 large boxes of new gifts were donated to Northsound 1's 'Mission Christmas Campaign'. Thanks also given to the staff for all their hard work and efforts in making the Christmas production such a success with many Classes also producing outstanding individual Productions.</p>	RS KH
2.	<p><u>The Transition Process to Cults Academy – Ms. Anna Muirhead and Mr. Brian Angus</u></p> <p>Ms Muirhead thanked the PC for the invitation and expressed the positive benefits of shared Parent Council time. She had received some queries prior to the meeting and assured that ALL information will be covered for prospective parents at the New Parents Night in June.</p> <p>The following points were covered in the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a comprehensive Transition Programme which is aimed as supporting children from all the feeder schools to move from P7 to S1. • As a parent, your relationship with the Academy will be different from that of Primary. • Pupils allocated into 5 Houses, often same as sibling, and will be assigned a Pupil Support Teacher. This person will be a Parent's main contact. • Communication is important, there are no barriers. Teachers and HT are as accessible as possible with open dialogue. • Transparency across the school is paramount, physically there are open glass panels in classes and offices. • Regarding the new housing developments, the Academy can cater for the current developments, Oldfold etc, but are unable to accept Countesswells development. • Mr Angus commences his visits to in-zone schools in March. There visits help to prepare pupils regarding what to expect, to identify and discuss their main concerns and worries. • All classes S1-3 are mixed ability, except Maths. • The 5 Pupil Support Staff (Guidance Teachers) will meet pupils in May - June. • Pupils have a 2 day visit in June. • Last year additional afternoons were introduced with pupils from all feeder schools with positive feedback from parents. 	AM & BA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities Programme - there has been a cut back of trips abroad due to costs and uptake. S1-3 participate in individual trips and Outward Bound Courses. • There was discussion around the challenges schools face policing the inappropriate use of Social Media. <p>Additional Support Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continual Review meetings assess learning challenges and how best to support pupils with Additional Needs throughout the school year. Some pupils require PSA support and young people are helped from within their class groups as much as possible. • Teachers have a strong understanding of how to support the individual child within a class. Differentiated work can be identified. • A Transition Package can be devised for those who require it with additional visits. Photos of areas/teachers can be supplied and other techniques employed to make the transition easier. There are 2 lifts in building. Additional time can be given to get about. Each class has a special desk with ability to adjust height of desk and/or chair. <p>Behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication with Parents is imperative when dealing with discipline. • Disruptive pupils are given a verbal warning. At end of class a 'note of concern' can be issued to give to parents. This is a mode of communication through which the Teacher makes the parent aware and asks for support. • If concerns continue, the child may be moved onto Level 1 of Discipline Procedure and this stays on file. Guidance Teacher is then aware and closely monitors for further challenges and if support is required. • Disciplinary Procedure continues with involvement of class teacher, Guidance Teacher, SMT and Parents. • The school manages and supports each individual child and each individual case. • With individual cases, parents and where necessary, police are made aware. • The school has very clear constructive policies and close working relationship with Police who have an active presence within the school. <p>There followed a period of questions and answers. RS thanked both AM and BA for their time and information.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Head Teacher Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Christmas arrangements went as planned and many parents and extended family members said how much they enjoyed the show. We did have one parent express concern about the difficulty in seeing their young children given the numbers and the early years children not all being on the stage. I have met with the parent to discuss this and we will take account of the comments in planning future shows, however our primary concern is the health and safety of the pupils and this presents many challenges given the nature of our staging and the numbers involved • Cults PS families have been amazingly generous since the last meeting. In November Kilts for Kids Day raised £473.06 for Children 1st, the Northsound Christmas appeal received two huge boxes of toys and gifts for underprivileged children around the north east. Thanks to the efforts of parents a school in a deprived area of Aberdeen received a donation of a large number of good quality winter coats which were passed straight on to children who needed them and we collected a considerable amount of electrical equipment for the Green Santa appeal, coming 4th across the city. The collections at the Christmas performances raised the amazing sum of £741.64 for Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland. A huge thank you to everyone for your generosity 	CJ

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school grounds have been even less accessible to pupils since the beginning of the new term and the relentless wet weather has served to reaffirm the need for any playground improvements to try to address the dreadful drainage issues we have. The PC grounds group have now met with Mr Birch and are prioritising looking into funding opportunities. We are also waiting to hear about a funding application we made to Tesco just before Christmas • November in-service day staff worked on Improving Questioning and Reflective Reading approaches. On the February in-service days we will be focusing on Mental Maths Progression, looking at Learning Logs and reviewing our IDL to ensure breadth and depth within the broad general education • We are planning maths problem solving days on Thursday 11th and Friday 12th February, which will be supported by workshops for each class from the Happy Puzzle Company. The Happy Puzzle Company will have a selection of their resources on display and available to buy in the Studio from 3.15pm on the Friday afternoon • HGIOS 4th edition was launched in September 2015 and provides the quality indicators against which schools will self-evaluate from August 2016. We are looking for different ways to engage parents/families in the self-evaluation process and one of these may be through focus groups. Nursery has already started to use this approach • HGIOS4 places great emphasis on partnership, collaboration and self-improvement, with inclusion and equality as underpinning principles. The document is available to download from the Education Scotland website • Scots verse speaking competition details issued to P4-7 today. Pupils learn poems at home then share in school and may be selected to represent their class. Winners receive a certificate and may progress to participate in the local Burns Federation verse speaking competition. There will also be an assembly focus on the Scots language over the next few weeks • P6 & 6/7 have started practising the songs for this year's Scottish Opera performance. The classes have put a link on their blogs to the rehearsal tracks for anyone who wishes to join in at home • We have taken delivery of Golden time resources funded by the PTA and these are now available for pupils use • Aberdeen City Council reporting format is now through Seemis, our MIS. This year teachers will complete pupil reports using this system and school copies of reports will be held electronically • Open Day will be on Thursday 24th March and this will also be wear a hat for Brain Tumour Research • Mid term holiday is Monday 15th February, with 16th and 17th February being In-service days – school will be open for staff only • School will be closed to all on Good Friday - 25th March and closes at 3.15pm on Friday 1st April for the Spring break, reopening on Monday 18th April 	
4.	<p><u>Christmas Holidays - Rachel Soplantila</u></p> <p>Aberdeen City Council Winter term 2016/2017, The holiday dates are: Monday the 26th December to Friday the 6th January 2017 The school is due to finish Friday 23rd December and resume Monday 9th January.</p>	RS All

	<p>ACC feel that half weeks are detrimental and Options were offered to parents to prefer proposed School Holiday Dates in the consultation on the September break in 2014.</p> <p>Documents were circulated to show 20/32 Scottish Councils (including Aberdeenshire) have all opted for earlier end of terms, not 23rd.</p> <p>Aberdeenshire have their holiday dates as: Thursday 22nd December to Wednesday 4th January.</p> <p>There was discussion regarding the disadvantages of the current arrangements. RS confirmed that she had heard from Cllr Taylor who had explained that the Council had fulfilled its legal requirement for consultation and was not prepared to consider the matter further.</p> <p>RS raised the notion of commencing a Petition to request ACC consider a change to the Christmas Holidays 2016. Feedback from the consultation in 2014 confirmed that parents had requested that ACC to be in line with Aberdeenshire.</p> <p>There was a majority vote that the PC should launch a petition with ACC to ask for a consideration to move holidays in line with Aberdeenshire.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Action: RS to initiate a petition and feedback and update to the Parent Forum</p> </div>	
5.	<p><u>Issues requested by parents</u></p> <p>1. Information request regarding the teaching of all Religious and Spiritual beliefs. CJ gave a brief outline of the teaching of religious and spiritual beliefs, all outlined and stipulated in the Curriculum for Excellence guidance. Religion and Moral Education must be taught in schools. Within the Curriculum and its delivery all main world religions are recognised, alongside a main focus on respect for others' values and beliefs, different festivals etc. MMc noted that in lower school Assemblies, different religions were discussed in a very general way.</p> <p>CJ asked if any parent had a particular issue they would like to discuss, to please make an appointment to see her.</p> <p>2. Feedback from the changes in line up arrangements. RS reported that the changes to the Line Up arrangements had improved and there had been positive feedback.</p>	All
6.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lighting around the back of the school for Casper drop off and pick up had been changed with the lights presumed to be coming on at 5.30am - 10.30pm. Will be monitored. • Pelican Crossing between Cults Academy and Primary school is in process of commencing, ACC waiting for improved weather conditions. • David Lloyd is using Hillview Church for classes so there is increased traffic on the perimeter road. 	All
	<p><u>Next Parent Council Meetings</u></p> <p>The next meetings of the PC are: Monday, March 14th 2016, 7-9pm, Staff Room. Monday, May 9th 2016 7-9pm, Staff Room. Monday June 20th 2016 7-9pm, Staff Room.</p> <p>Any parent of a child at Cults Primary/ Nursery is very welcome to attend any Parent Council meeting.</p> <p>The Parent Council can be emailed at PCCultsPrimary@aberdeen.npfs.org.uk</p>	

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