

## CULTS PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017, 7-9pm

Red Unit, Cults Primary School

### Attendees:

Katrina Stewart (KS-Chair), Tiana Walker (TW-Treasurer), Caroline Johnstone (CJ), Morven McKay (MM), Mark Raistrick (MR-Secretary); Nancy Anderson (NA), Laura Haxton (LH), Julie Baghurst (JB), Vannin Bloch (VB), Suzanne Smithwhite (SS), Alison Murray (AM), Ann Smith (AS), Catherine Smith (CS), Sonya Angus (SA)

**Apologies:** Iain Mearns (IM), Phillipa Smith (PS), Rachel Soplantila (RS)

Agenda items	Updates and discussions	Action
1.	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iain Mearns was unable to attend due to work commitments, so Katrina Stewart (Vice Chair) and Mark Raistrick (Secretary) chaired the meeting.</li> <li>• Apologies received from Iain Mearns (Chair) and from Andrew Jones a representative from Aberdeen City Council (ACC), who was invited to discuss accommodation works (purple unit, reception etc.). Andrew intends to be available for the next PC meeting in early 2018</li> <li>• Apologies received from Rachel Soplantila (Former Chair). Rachel also sent a note to school management team and PC committee tendering her resignation from this PC. Rachel's extensive and devoted contributions over the years were gratefully acknowledged by all.</li> <li>• <i>Extend an invite to Andrew Jones for the first meeting in 2018</i></li> </ul>	IM
2.	<p><b>Previous minutes were approved</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ensure minutes are published on school website prior to next meeting in January 2018</i></li> </ul>	CJ
3.	<p><b>Request for Volunteers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General request for volunteers to help coordinate travel team, grounds team and government educational consultations</li> <li>• New initiatives with clearly defined requests and roles will hopefully drive greater participation</li> <li>• Need for and request for an active and engaged group of parent volunteers, traffic wardens and children to reinforce current and implement new travel safety initiatives</li> <li>• <i>Committee to meet in early 2018 to discuss an action plan for revitalising support</i></li> </ul>	IM/KS
4.	<p><b>Staff Update</b></p> <p>David Birch (Principal Teacher) has accepted the role of Head Teacher at Craigievar Primary School and is likely to take up post in January 2018.</p> <p>Rhiannon Cusick (Teacher) will retire at Christmas 2017.</p> <p>Margaret Pratt (Pupil Support Assistant) is leaving at the beginning of December 2017 to return to North Berwick.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We would like to thank our staff members for their contributions during their time in our school and we all wish them well for the future.</li> <li>• School Administrator Joyce Morrison has reduced hours to 3 days per week.</li> <li>• Caroline Bain will undertake the School Administrator role on the other 2 days and an agency worker has been identified to backfill the School Support Assistant role until</li> </ul>	

	<p>the hours can be advertised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An advertisement for a class teacher has opened and is now closed and interviews will take place before Christmas 2017.</li> <li>• It is likely that an established teacher will move to the hub with the new teacher going to a classroom role.</li> <li>• The school management structure is being reviewed in light of our increasing roll and staff changes. The preferred structure is Head Teacher x 1, Deputy Head x 3 and Principal Teacher x 1.</li> <li>• Cults Primary School hosted a successful and informative joint in-service training day with Culter and Milltimber Schools on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The theme “Developing More Effective Feedback and Assessment” was delivered by Phil Badham of Osiris Training.</li> </ul>	
5.	<p><b>Consultations</b></p> <p>Recent requests from the Scottish government to express opinions on proposed areas of work and reform within education. Two educational bills are being considered within government:</p> <p>Empowering Schools: Opened 07 Nov 2017 and closes 30 Jan 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/education-scotland-bill/">https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/education-scotland-bill/</a></li> <li>• All parents/guardians were emailed the letter from the John Swinney (Deputy First Minister) in mid-November with the link to the latest consultation.</li> <li>• The closing date is the end of January 2018. The bill is likely to lead to reduced role of councils in running schools and more ‘devolution’ of powers to schools.</li> </ul> <p>Excellence and Equity for All: Opened 02 Nov 2017 and closes 09 Feb 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://consult.gov.scot/supporting-learners/presumption-of-mainstreaming/">https://consult.gov.scot/supporting-learners/presumption-of-mainstreaming/</a></li> </ul> <p>Both of these consultation documents have parts that are difficult to understand for non-specialist readers and there was discussion on how a response might be crafted and the value of coordinating our response with the Cults Academy Parent Council</p> <p><i>Send GROUPCALL seeking for volunteers to coordinate a collective response on behalf of ASG</i></p> <p><i>Coordinate a response with Tony Rafferty (Cult Academy PC)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Another consultation is currently ongoing with trade unions and staff on a new framework to transform the operating model of Aberdeen City Council (see press release included below)</li> </ul>	IM/KS
6.	<p><b>School News/Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standardisation Norming Study Assessments (SNSA) – info for parents – leaflets (included) and timescale – Nov S3, Jan P4, Feb P7, Mar P1.</li> <li>• Anti-Bullying Week 13<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017.</li> <li>• Road Safety Week 20<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – Homework Competition with prizes, DVDs to P1.</li> <li>• New road markings and parking restrictions to be in place by end November 2017</li> <li>• Grounds team working proposals with Angelique Robb at Papillon Designs and Landscaping. Meeting proposed on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book Week Scotland 27<sup>th</sup> November – 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Bookbug Bags and Reading Passports will be issued.</li> <li>• Health Committee Lunchtime helpers have started in the dining room on a rota basis and this is proving very successful, with the children involved taking their responsibilities very seriously.</li> <li>• Pupil Council surveyed classes and chose to support Stand Up to Cancer – PJ Day 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017</li> <li>• P7 choir and school choir conducted by Miss Hamilton and Miss Bennett to perform at Evening Express concert at St Marks Church on 6<sup>h</sup> December.</li> <li>• Choir to sing at Shell 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and Hazlehead Park on 17<sup>th</sup> December.</li> <li>• Christmas performances this year will be separate for P1-3 and P4-7 Both groups will perform twice, one morning and on afternoon performance Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December      P4-7 09.30      P1-3 14.00 Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December      P1-3 09.30      P4-7 14.00</li> </ul>	
7.	<p><b>School Uniform</b></p> <p>We are considering an alternative school uniform supplier who offers online ordering/payment and would supply the uniform packed and labelled to school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wider range of items could be available.</li> <li>• Uniform samples shared with attendees of PC meeting.</li> </ul>	
8.	<p><b>AOB - Any Other Business</b></p> <p>An open discussion on travel safety and how to improve raising concerns within drop off and collection zones.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasis on the need for an engaged and active group of parent volunteers, traffic wardens and the engagement of the children to bring their parents in line with school travel safety golden rules.</li> </ul> <p>Expect to see Scottish National Standardized Assessment (SNSA) in the next academic year (2018-19) with initial calibration testing ongoing, using a randomly selected sample of children to provide a benchmark.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is another form of assessment to support /measure the Scottish Government's <i>Curriculum for Excellence</i>.</li> </ul>	
9.	<p><b>Dates of the next PC meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 7-9pm</b></li> </ul> <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 contacted on: <a href="mailto:PCCultsPrimary@aberdeen.npfs.org.uk">PCCultsPrimary@aberdeen.npfs.org.uk</a></p>	

## Press Release on Aberdeen City Council Reorganisation

# **Aberdeen City Council launches major transformation to meet the needs of Aberdeen citizens**

Councillors have backed an ambitious new framework to transform the operating model of Aberdeen City Council.

The framework aims to address the growing challenges facing the Council. While the Council will require to operate with a leaner workforce, it must still be able to meet the needs of customers.

A new target operating model aims to create a customer-focused structure and a series of digital platforms that will change the way the organisation currently works.

The framework will remove the existing directorates of Education and Children's Services, Communities, Housing and Infrastructure, the Office of Chief Executive and Corporate Governance and these will be replaced by the functions of Customer, Commissioning, Delivery and Resource. This will enable the workforce to be organised in fewer management layers and will be less static in relation to specific roles or services.

Aberdeen City Council Chief Executive Angela Scott said: "Over the last 12 months, we have repeatedly stressed the need for this organisation to change in order to meet the many challenges we face.

"While there are many challenges, there are also many opportunities to embrace a modern way of working and to focus on outcomes that meet the needs of our customers as well as the wider economic region.

"Our duty as public servants is to ensure we can protect the people and place of Aberdeen from harm and to enable people to prosper. We need to change in order to continue to do this.

"This new framework is the first milestone on our journey of transformation and sets out a vision which we will now strive to achieve.

"This new operating model will ensure that our customers receive the right support, at the right time, in the right place through one single function. It will remove time consuming working practices thereby releasing time for our staff to care for our customers. And it will ensure the financial sustainability of the Council.

"Services will be commissioned in a more formal way ensuring transparency of the outcomes we are seeking to contribute to, thereby ensuring the City Council's contribution to the Community Planning Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plan."

Following today's (August 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017) decision by Council, a Strategic Transformation Committee will convene to plan for the implementation of the proposals.

