



# Airyhall School Parent Council



## Meeting – 15 May 2019 Minutes - Approved

**Chair:** Victoria Oumarou

**Secretary:** vacant post

**Treasurer:** Stuart Young

<i>Parent Council (PC) Members Present</i>	Jacqueline Allan (JA); Emma Armstrong (EA); Chi Duru (CD); Kenny Hunter (KH); Victoria Oumarou (VO); Isabel Popescu (IP); April Schelbert (AS); Sarah Smith (SS); Stuart Young (SY).
<i>Staff Members Present</i>	Donna Polson (DP); Emma Currie (EC).
<i>Aberdeen City Councillors Present</i>	Cllr Douglas Lumsden (DL)
<i>Apologies</i>	Eric Gilligan (EG); Leigh Houston (LH); Jacqui McKenzie (JM); Cllr Ian Yuill (IY).
<i>Minute-taker</i>	V. Oumarou

1	<b>Welcome and apologies</b>	The meeting was opened by the Chair at 6:35pm, who welcomed everybody and thanked them for their presence.	VO
2	<b>Approval of Previous Minutes</b>	1 revision to previous minutes, approved by email. They can now be uploaded to the school website and Parent Council webpage on APCF site.	VO
3	<b>Update from last meeting</b>	Open Afternoon provided the opportunity for Parent Council members to meet in the school library and talk to parents informally about Parent Council. DP provided 2 chromebooks so that parents could share views via the short parent survey. The survey was also on the school website and was emailed to all parents and carers with the notice about tonight's meeting. Responses to the survey were closed today, 15/05/19, with 26 responses in total.	
4	<b>Class Reps + AOB</b>	<p>Zoning for Deeside kids moving up to Hazlehead - unclear communication regarding historic in-zone protection, some parents and pupils have been very worried as a result of this. Archive was checked and parents were reassured that a clarification letter at the time of the original consultation document in 2017 guaranteed protection of in-zone status for kids here at Airyhall at time of zoning switch. School to check procedure regarding making sure placing team know which pupils are entitled to in-zone protection.</p> <p>Fizzy drinks – are they and should they be available in the canteen?</p> <p>Composite classes – probable for next session.</p> <p>Photos – P6 older groups complaints. Maybe less props for older classes in future? Look at next year. Maybe audit for next year.</p> <p>School Summer Fair this weekend – helpers still required.</p>	<p>SY – send copy of historic clarification letter;</p> <p>DP – check school procedure going forward</p>
5	<b>Countesswells consultation</b>	Update – permanent Countesswells Head Teacher post is advertised, the move to the new temporary site at Hazlewood is waiting until this appointment is made. There is no nursery provision currently for Countesswells and nor will there be at Hazlewood. Priority zoning –	DL – check zoning for Countesswells; VO - email

		<p>where are Countesswells kids being zoned? Parents are concerned at the impact on ante-pre-school children in Airyhall zone.</p> <p>Kids that don't have siblings at Countesswells – where are they being zoned? ELC is non-statutory. Primary zones are used to band it.</p> <p>Airyhall PC have received a copy of the Consultation document as a statutory consultee. As such, could it be sent to all parents. The new school at Countesswells is scheduled to open August 2021.</p> <p>Closing date for the consultation is 07 June. Topic at next meeting? Bring forward date?</p>	<p>Andrew Jones, Gail Ross; DP – check re sending out info to all</p>
6	<p><b>Parent Surveys and Next Steps</b></p>	<p>VO shared results and views from Parent Council Parent Survey. Already some suggestions being or will be implemented, such as sharing clearer information about the agenda, rotating the days of the meeting, looking into childcare, creating regular newsletters with more information about Parent Council, adding dates to learning journey diaries. Regarding some comments which expressed a lack of clarity as to why Parent Council is vital in our school and its ongoing development, discussion followed, with views shared by parents and staff, including:</p> <p>Parents and staff can share views together, get other people's point of views, make an impact on what is happening in school.</p> <p>School finds it helps to run things past a physical group of parents who are living and breathing the school.</p> <p>It is good for parents to hear things from the school's point of view, such as car park, Hazlehead; we can then have clear understanding about what's going on and the reasons why.</p> <p>Better relationships between staff and parents, which impacts for pupils.</p> <p>Parents feel we can all approach the school at any time.</p> <p>Parent Council members are needed for the recruitment of heads and deputes.</p> <p>You can ask questions without feeling you are disturbing anyone. Even though our school is always open doors and teachers and management are always helpful to talk to, this is another opportunity for open communication between parents and school.</p> <p>DP shared results from School's parent/carer audit – overwhelmingly positive. The majority agree in all cases. School would appreciate hearing in person from parents if they have a problem so they can try to help them. Parents appreciate that we have a steady and stable staff. There were situations when not aware of bullying. Next steps will come through. Learning together features in improvement plan.</p>	<p>VO - share Janet Goodall presentation</p>
7	<p><b>Learning &amp; Teaching</b></p>	<p>DP and VO attended an interesting training event organised by ACC earlier this term, by Dr Janet Goodall, all around parental engagement. This workshop gave School management and Parent Councils a chance to come together, reflect and discuss how to best work together for their communities.</p> <p>Schools are here to support children and to support parents to support children – we are all focused on supporting our children.</p> <p>A common thread was communication. Dr Goodall suggested that even though children may not seem interested from the answers they give us (especially tweens and teenagers), it is really important</p>	

		to always ask your child how their day was. A parent asking their child how their day was sends a clear and reassuring message to the child that their parent is interested in them and cares about them. The powerpoint from the workshop will be shared.	
8	<b>Pupil Groups</b>	To be emailed	EC
9	<b>Staffing</b>	All recent PSA posts and EYP post have been interviewed for and preferred candidates identified, lots of interest. All teaching posts are currently fully staffed, including covering acting posts. This year's probationers have had a successful year and are moving to new posts in the city as no capacity here. A new probationer is probable for next year.	DP
10	<b>Accounts</b>	£1,331.06. Current balance. New grant should come next year, around September to October. Discussion surrounding using some of our Parent Council funding to cover the cost of using PSAs to staff a childcare provision during meetings. Asking staff to volunteer and then relying on their goodwill during 6 meetings a year seems both unreasonable and unsustainable. We would expect to see a direct positive impact for the children at our school in increased parental participation through this initiative.	SY VO – email DC to ask if payment can be used to cover childcare during meetings.
11	<b>Dates of Next Meetings</b>	Next meeting = CHANGED to Tues 04 June at 7-8pm. This will be the final meeting of this school session, with 19:00 start, end before or by 20:00.	VO - email Frances with change of date and LETS.
	<b>Meeting Closed</b>	20:00 – with thanks to all.	