

DUNNOTTAR PARENT VOICE

Session 2018/2019

1st Meeting

Wednesday 19th September 2018

Present: Mandy Senior (Secretary), Carylyn Marek-Johnston (Treasurer), Scott Martin (Chair), Lisa Williams (Headteacher), Erin Murray, Caroline Gibson, Tracey Black, Cllr Wendy Agnew, Cllr Sarah Dickinson, Megan Primrose, Emma Park (Vice Chair), Julia Morton, Rachel Frame, Hayley Cameron, Jill Black, Claire Will.

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from Elaine Marshall, Richard Cormack-Corrigan and Allison Lever.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** There was nothing arising from the AGM minutes or from the meeting of 9th May 2018.
3. **Head Teacher Update:**
 - a. **QIP:** The Quality Improvement Plan has been done and sent to Kay Macdonald for comments and suggestions. When this is finalised a parent friendly version will be sent out to the Dunnottar Community. 2+1, emergent literacy and expressive arts – music are on the plan and the staff have been put into 3 groups to develop these plans further. Part of the QIP is for Kay Macdonald to be invited into school to observe teaching in practice this has happened and she was very happy with the good practice she saw.
 - b. **Playground:** The tiles and mats are to be lifted from the playground and wetpour will be put in instead. This is taking more time than hoped because a large amount of money is being spent so quotes must be received and the Property Department needs to be involved in the process. Quotes have also been requested for astroturf but it is suspected that this will be too expensive. A lot of money has been raised for the development of the playground and in the interest of transparency it was suggested that **LW put out a playground update newsletter** detailing what the money had been spent on and what will be happening next.
 - c. **Staffing:** Miss Marshall will be starting maternity leave at the end of the October holidays, Mrs Reid will be returning from maternity leave in November and an advert is in for the post of PSA.
 - d. **Pupil Groups:** Groups include the Charity Group, Eco/Allotment Group, Pupil Council and My World of Work Ambassadors (the school's slant on Developing the Young Workforce). A Hip-Hop group has been started by keen pupils and a Musical Theatre group is in the planning stage, again by pupils.
4. **PTA Update:**
 - a. The recent bag pack raised £619.20 and the money will be put towards a new musical instrument for the playground. LW has priced this and it will cost £900.
 - b. Lucy Smith is the new PTA treasurer.
 - c. £4,500 has been given to the school.
 - d. Funds stand at £2,636.24

5. **Social Media – Facebook Trial and Proposal:** HC has taken advice from Mill O' Forest and created a Dunnottar Facebook page. This is currently a closed group and people cannot comment on posts. There are no photos of children on the page. There was a lengthy discussion about the pros and cons of open or closed group and the question was asked that if the page was only for giving out information, the way Twitter currently does, why does it need to be a closed group? SM asked **HC and RF to put together a remit for approval at the next meeting.**
6. **Playground:** This was covered in the Head Teacher's update.
7. **Homework (P7):** RF queried whether the P7 children should have more homework, especially maths, to aid the transition to S1. There was a long discussion about the issue and LW noted that current thinking by the likes of John Hattie and Professor Graham Donaldson strongly suggest that homework in primary schools is not as valuable as digital literacy and life skills. All Dunnottar children are asked to read, practice learn-it's and work through their life skills sheets.
8. **Lunchtime/After School Clubs:**
 - a. RF asked whether there could be more clubs open to the younger pupils and suggested starting a Lego Club that could be run by older pupils with one adult overseeing. LW noted that the younger children need time to run around and that adult supervision would be required. **LW said she would take the issue to the Pupil Council to see what they would like.**
 - b. JM said she was hugely disappointed that holding OMM classes in St Bridget's was going to require parents to pay for the club. She pointed out that it has been running hugely successfully for 2 years free of charge and it seems unfair to charge parents when the issue is a school building that isn't fit for purpose. LW noted that due to the same issue the netball club has to be held at the leisure centre at a cost of £1.50 per child. **Cllr Agnew is going to speak to Hazel Hall at Aberdeenshire Council** about the council paying for these clubs and it was suggested that perhaps the Dunnottar parent body need to make more noise about the issues surrounding the building's limitations and the desperate need for a new school.
9. **Approval of Parent Voice Info Leaflet:** EP has put together a comprehensive leaflet detailing the role of the Parent Voice. The leaflet follows guidelines and is informal but informative and can be edited at any time. The idea is for it to be put on the school website and on groupcall. **EP is to make a few updates** and then **LW will put it on Groupcall.**
10. **Finance:** The PV gets an annual grant from the council but there is some confusion over when this was last paid. **MS and CMJ are to investigate.** Currently the PV have £8.29 but they rarely have expenses. The PTA would like to upgrade the Connect membership insurance from 3* to 4* which costs £32. SM suggested that the PTA cover that cost.

11. AOCB:

- a. **School Uniform:** MS had been approached by a parent wondering if it would be possible to have larger size polo shirts in the same maroon colour available for nursery. **LW will check** if that is possible and if so these can then be purchased from Dunnottar's uniform supplier.
- b. **Printing:** MS noted that she prints a number of minute and agenda sheets for each meeting which then go into the recycling. She requested that either she get some money towards the cost of printing or, preferably, that she doesn't bring copies to the meetings as they have already been sent to members by email. It was agreed that MS would no longer bring copies and if needed PV members could bring their own copy.

12. Date of Next Meeting: The next PV meeting will be on Wednesday 21st November at 18:30 in the staffroom.