

Dunnottar Parent Voice Virtual AGM

(via Microsoft Teams)

Wednesday 11th November 2020

Attendees: Scott Martin, Emma Park, Michael Madlock, Rachel Frame, Natasha Robinson, Allison Lever, Andy Brooks, Lisa Williams, Caroline Duncan, Tracey Black, Caroline Gibson, Cllr Dennis Robertson, Cllr. Sarah Dickinson

Apologies; Hayley Cameron, Mary Ray, Jill Black, Claire Will, Cllr. Wendy Agnew

1. **Brief welcome and overview** of the Parent Voice, by Chair, Scott Martin, advising how the PV supports and acts on behalf of the Dunnottar parent / carer community, meeting bi-monthly with the school (head, assistant head and other teacher representatives) and local councillors, to discuss key issues and school updates. SM also provided an overview of the AGM process and the main purpose of this meeting - to elect members and office bearers for the school year ahead.

1. The PV can have up to 12 parent members. Current members (2019/20); Hayley Cameron, Mary Ray, Rachel Frame, Natasha Robinson, Allison Lever, Clare Will, Jill Black, Scott Martin, Emma Park all advised (in advance of this meeting) they would like to continue as members. Julia Morton advised in advance of the meeting she will no longer continue as a member. Andy Brooks requested to join as a member, which was agreed meaning there are 10 agreed members for the academic year ahead, 2020/21. Should any other parents or carers be interested in joining they would be very welcome. All parents and carers can attend the PV bi-monthly virtual meetings even if they are not members. All views are very welcome.
2. Scott Martin had previously been the elected Chair of the PV and Emma Park has been Vice both serving in these roles for the past two years. Emma also combined the roles of secretary and treasurer the last year and a half due to member changes. Both advised that they are equally happy to step aside for other parents to fulfil these roles or continue as is for the year ahead. All members in attendance voted, it was agreed that office bearers for 20/21 would be Scott Martin as Chair, Andy Brooks as Vice Chair and Emma Park as Secretary and Treasurer.
3. PV Treasurer report for 2019/20: as of October 2019, the last AGM, the PV bank balance was £310. Following receipt of the annual Aberdeenshire Council 'Parent Council' funding allocation, in November 2019, the balance stands as £613.09. Aberdeenshire Council have advised that these annual funds (approx £300) will be issued by the end of November 2020. In 2019/20, all funds were held in case they were required for supporting the new school building action plan/ publicity etc. Agreed to discuss use of funds at next meeting.
4. Agreed date of next meeting: Wednesday 20th January at 6pm

2. **Head Teacher Update** provided by Mrs Williams.

Covid-19 update; continues to be a weekly item of preparation, contingency planning, health and safety and cleaning processes for the Dunnottar Staff. All children have adapted well and settled into any changes, both in class and in the playground. Health, well-being and mental health continue to be constantly addressed and incorporated into the classroom everyday. The school are also benefiting from cluster Covid recovery funding in the addition of a new member of support staff. Nicola O'Neil will work two days a week (Tues & Thurs) specialising in additional support needs and attainment of children.

Reporting to parents; as discussed at the previous PV meeting due to current restrictions there will be no face to face meetings / in school parents evening this year, parent consultations were scheduled via the telephone. These will also be supported in coming weeks by video/ pieces to camera from the teachers and in class montages from the children. This was suggested by PV members, to allow visual understanding of what is going on in class and meeting of and getting to know, the teachers.

PE update; as restrictions have been eased, the school are now allowed to use the PE hall, however, the school have decided to utilise outdoors as much as possible, where weather allows, to continue to help avoid unnecessary exposure and reduce the risk, as much as possible. The reason for this is because the PE hall is a relatively small space, with poor circulation. The school is wholly committed to ensure each child is given the 2hrs allocated PE time per week. A gym hall schedule has been created for class sessions, with ample time (20minutes+) between to allow for air circulation and cleaning after each class use.

Christmas season; as previously advised, this year will be a bit different from others, all parents / carers should now have received the schedule for the month of December with planned activities and festive fun. The teachers brainstormed together to ensure that this year still feels special and fun for all with in class parties, streamed panto pieces, house challenges and seasonal crafting. AB shared an idea that works well at Balmedie school, an interactive family quiz run by the teachers, suggesting Dunnottar get involved or run own version!

Seesaw alternative; all teaching staff are extremely saddened to have lost use of Seesaw, now it is no longer a safe form of communication for the school to use, as of Friday 20th November all profiles were no longer available to view. Aberdeenshire Council have a cluster working group set up, that LW is part of, researching and testing alternatives. The school is also seeking an alternative with staff, however in the interim parents and carers are encouraged to contact the school directly, emails can be forwarded to teachers for a response, please note this won't be an instant response. Although this is not as seamless as Seesaw, the school is determined to ensure open channels of communication between school and home, teachers and parents / carers. Any appropriate alternatives will be advised as and when they become available. If there are any major concerns, parents and carers should contact the school office.

3. **Subcommittee update**

PTA: Rachel Frame provided an update from the PTA. The current bank balance is £450, following £5,557 being paid out to the school to buy smart boards, speakers, chrome books and other in class requirements. The Neon Disco in October raised £390, thank you to all parents and carers for their donations.

The current balance has been kept to help with running costs of any further fundraising activities. Due to current restrictions larger scale fundraising plans including the annual Christmas festive fair will sadly not go ahead. The PTA is pressing on with new ideas including; the 2021 calendar and an outdoor Rag Bag collection point, which should hopefully be in place for Christmas clear outs soon.

4. **AOB**

Ahead of the next PV meeting it was agreed that all members should consider areas where the PV can be more active and raise as discussion points in advance of the next meeting i.e. ~ a new nursery / school building ~ local community outreach and involvement etc.

We ask all parents and carers to also contact the PV to put forward points and suggestions.

Please do this via email dunnottarparentvoice@outlook.com in advance of our next meeting on Wednesday 20th January 2020, 6pm.