

Rosehearty School Parent Council
Wednesday 11th October 2023 at 6.15pm
ICT Suite

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present

Lynne Bruce, Vicky Irvine, Sarah Black, Pip Knowles, Denise Simpson, Emma Beedie, Lisa McIntosh, Lynsey Beedie, Jemma McBride, Nichol Gibbon, Maria Hatchett, Dee Noble, Claire Beedie, Mr Taylor, Mr Murphy, Mrs Friesen.

Apologies

Sarah Pirie, Kylie Stewart, Katie Cross, Rachel Ritchie, Amy Millar

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were read by Maria Hatchett, approved by Claire Beedie and seconded by Vicky Irvine.

3. Head Teacher's Report

Attainment

The priority for the school for this year is to improve attainment. This year so far, the school have brand new reading assessments (PIRA) to help assess where the children are at.

P7s have undertaken Scottish National Standardised Assessments (digital) and have done well. This is an assessment given at the start of the year to see where each child is within national targets and information is shared with the Academy prior to the children moving on to secondary education. Well done P7s!

The school is continuing to develop their work within UNCRC and GIRFEC. A whole school audit has been undertaken with the 'Shanarri Wheel' which is a measuring tool for Health and Wellbeing. Most of the children scored 8 or more out of 10 points in each category which is positive. The trend that stood out as the lower mark for the children was the indicator for Health, i.e the children do not feel healthy in school. This will be a focus of work within the school to improve this and support the children to be healthier within the school.

New Water Bottles

Water bottles for use within school will be issued to pupils by close of Term 1 and will be the only water bottles to be used in classrooms from the 30th October 2023 - start of Term 2.

Children are permitted to take other forms of drinks for breaktime and packed lunches however the school recommends that children only drink water. Water is the only drink available in the dinner hall for those who require a drink with their lunch, whether that is packed lunch or school dinner. The water fountain is always available to children throughout the day and should bottles need to be refilled.

Information from the ChildSmile Team is that we (Rosehearty School) have the highest level of decay in the Fraserburgh cluster, so the water bottles are one of the ways the school will be supporting the children to improve their health.

Community Council

Rosehearty School will be working closely with the Rosehearty Community Council assisting them in developing and writing the Local Community Action Plan. A small group of children from the Village will get a chance to share what they feel is most important about their community. This has already been carried out with those children who live in New Aberdour.

The Rosehearty Community Council will be holding an event at the next school open afternoon – Wednesday 22nd November 2023 – and the doors will be open 15 minutes earlier to allow anyone attending the open afternoon to have a look and to chat with the Community Council.

The Community Council has approached the school to ask if some of the children can lay a wreath for Armistice Day, which falls on Saturday 11th November. There will be a small group of children selected for this.

The Community Council in partnership with the Church have donated £1000.00 and The Lodge Forbes 67 have also donated £400.00 to the school.

School Values

As a school we are focusing on our School Value of Trust, as the staff believe this is the hardest value to evidence.

The staff have decided to remove the playground equipment from the 'rota' and thus will be available to all at play/breaktimes to help promote 'trust'.

'Free Seat Friday' is also another example of how to help promote the school value of 'trust' within the school by allowing the children to choose where they sit at lunchtimes.

Instrumental Music Service

We are one of the schools within the cluster with the highest uptake in this service which is fantastic. We now have children on Brass and String instruments and children signed up for Woodwind.

Parents Portal

Huge thank you to everyone who has signed up for the Parents Portal. It is very important that everyone is signed up as the permission slips for the upcoming Christmas Pantomime Trip will be available only on Parents Portal.

The calendar will also be live on the portal so any updates will be found on the portal once all the bugs and glitches are sorted. There is an app available as well as the website. Be aware that the portal does not send notifications unlike the Expressions App but the school will continue to issue notifications of important documents and information via social media.

Absence

Absence levels within the school are high. The school will send out C10 letters to parents should their child/ren's attendance levels fall below a certain number.

The school has a high level of absence now which seems to be due to family holidays. Please try to book holidays out with term time to lessen the impact on the children and prevent them having to catch up on schoolwork. Work will not be issued for those children who are away on family holidays.

Promoting Positive Relationships Policy

5 Best Steps within the classroom and this will be used within the playground with the PSAs. It has been highlighted that not all the children respect the PSAs as much as they do the teachers, so it is hopeful that working with this will help improve relationships.

Working with Attainment Advisor

The school is working regularly with Jo Kirby who is an Attainment Advisor as our attainment is below the national average and she is supporting the school to try to improve attainment. The national average has dropped due to the impact of Covid. The years which are being assessed are those which were perhaps impacted the most by Covid and subsequent lockdowns.

Breakfast Initiative

One of the initiatives discussed was The Breakfast Initiative. It has been noted that we have children across the school who are coming to school either with little or no breakfast, and or are having unsettled mornings before coming to school, and this is impacting their attainment within school. The school has received £1400.00 (£1000.00 from Rosehearty Community Council and £400.00 The Lodge Forbes 67) which is set to go towards starting up the school's Breakfast Initiative in which the children who require support in this area are able to get some contact with an adult and have something to eat prior to the school day commencing.

This will not be like a traditional breakfast club, and it will be targeted to certain children. Plans are still be worked out on how to deliver this, but it is hopeful that this will be up and running soon.

Budget

ICT Refresh Budget has been reduced across the Shire and we have not received any for this year.

4. Fundraising – Bingo Friday 10th November

Due to the dates provided it has been decided by the Office Bearers to postpone the Musical Bingo with AJ West this year and move it into next year (March/April).

We have opted to have a Bingo Fundraiser on Friday 10th November 2023. Details will be shared on social media, and all are welcome to attend. This is to raise funds for the whole school Christmas Trip to HMT's Christmas Panto.

We are looking for donations for raffles. Any raffle donations can be given to a Parent Council member or the school office. A huge thank you to Mrs Friesen who has kindly donated a mini photoshoot as one of the prizes on offer at the Bingo Night.

5. Photoshoot with Mrs Friesen

Mrs Friesen has offered to collaborate with us to help us fundraise by offering a family photoshoot. We have voted to have an outdoor photoshoot but due to time and weather constraints we have decided to move this fundraiser into next year when the weather and hours of daylight are more favourable. Suggestions for an outdoor location are welcome but currently Pitsligo Castle is a frontrunner.

6. Christmas Party/Gifts – School Requirements

Mr Murphy has suggested that instead of individual books or gifts for each child this year, which last year cost £196.00, we opt for a class gift of items tailored to each class. This has been accepted and all teachers are to provide the Parent Council with their 'Wishlist' by the 10th of November 2023. The Parent Council are to provide 'pass the parcel' prizes, food, and helpers for the parties as per previous years.

7. Pantomime

All places offering a pantomime were reviewed and the cheapest option was His Majesty's Theatre at £12.50 per ticket, so we have decided to go with this for this year's Christmas celebration.

A letter has been sent out with details regarding this. The school have approached parents to consider contributing to the cost of this school trip. This school trip is offered to everyone so the Parent Council will pick up the cost of the trip. The Parent Council will pay for the bus travel to and from the panto. Quotes were sought for bus companies with 3 companies responding, Simpson, Watermill and Victoria. We have voted to go with Watermill as their quote was reasonable and they are deemed to be reliable. Lynne is to contact them to accept their quotation. To be confirmed at the next meeting.

We are seeking sponsorship for a juice and ice cream for the children while they are at the pantomime.

If pupils do not want to attend, provisions will be put in place, and they can remain at school.

Parent Council Engagement

A few Council members attended the Fraserburgh Academy Parent Council Meeting to discuss the engagement between parent councils and parents.

There were several things discussed but one of the biggest take-aways from that meeting was social media and the impact on children and parents. There will be a leaflet sent via the school's social media with information on the impacts and advice on what things are and what you can do to help your children.

Parent Council Contacts for each year:

P1 – Lynsey

P2 – Pip

P3 – Claire

P4 – Dee

P5 – Sarah

P6 – Jemma

P7 – Lisa

Parent Council Office Bearers – Chairperson – Lynne Bruce

Vice Chairperson – Denise Simpson

Treasurer – Jemma McBride

Secretary – Maria Hatchett

Please contact any of the people above should you have a question or a suggestion that should be raised at the next Parent Council meeting.

10. Close of Meeting

That being all the business, the meeting was brought to a close by the chairperson.