

Friends of Maud School Parent Council

Minutes

Wednesday 8th November 2017

John Curno (Chair), Kath O'Connor (Secretary), Cat Anderson (Fundraising), Rebecca Cassie (Fundraising), Katie Fordyce, Rachel Smith, Victoria Buckman-Brown, Miss Portsmouth, Miss Buchan, Miss Blakemore, Mrs Steel, Mrs Moir, Debbie Tocher, Lynne Pirie

1. Apologies

Louise Cran (Treasurer), Georgie Curno, Rachel Mitchell, Christine Wood, Shona Esslemont, Jennifer Gray, Louise Gorley, Louise Catto, Caroline Simpson, Rhea and Kenny Westmacott, Sarah Gove, Elayne and Dave Wilson, Becky Duguid, Miss White

2. Minutes from previous meeting

Kath O'Connor read out the minutes from the last meeting (not the AGM) - June 7th 2017

a. Outstanding Actions

It was noted that the library books had started to go home again.

b. Approval

Cat Anderson approved the minutes, seconded by Rebecca Cassie.

3. School Improvement Priorities

Mrs Steel said she would be asking for the Parent Council thoughts at each meeting based on the improvement priorities.

- Visions, Values and Respect
 - The Parent Council thought that the children were filtering their learning through to home life, so they must be taking it in.
 - Mrs Steel asked to remind the children that they can fill in leaves and nominate people for the tree.
- School Improvement Priorities were shared at the beginning of term by Mrs Steel, was this helpful?
 - It was good to have the information, but the meeting parents were invited to clashed with the school bell, so maybe a different time/venue next time would be helpful.
- Opportunity to reach out to parents who never come to things, do the Parent Council think the school are missing anything in trying to reach these parents?
 - It was thought there was a lot of opportunity already and perhaps the teachers could ask/remind them of events when they do come in, say for parents evening. It was thought that there may always be a minority who will not come in, for many reason, and the school do as much as they can.

4. Treasurers Report

(Read out by Cat Anderson in Louise Cran's absence.)

The latest bank statement is from 13th October and shows a balance of £3,262.14. There are cheques to cash amounting to £206.25 and since the last statement £221.30 was banked from the Halloween disco, so we are expecting the next balance will be £3,277.19.

5. Maud School Football

(Read out by Cat Anderson in Louise Cran's absence.)

Training has now been split between 2 age groups, the P1-2s train at Maud Village Hall from 6.15-7.00, the P3-7s train at New Deer Astro Turf from 6.00-7.00, both on a Tuesday night still. These training sessions will continue right through to Easter. The indoor Strathlythan League is about to start, this mainly involves the older players and runs until March. We are also organising our Christmas Trip, we'll be going to Balmoor Stadium to cheer on Peterhead against Edinburgh City on Saturday the 2nd December. An e-mail has been sent out to all of our footballers with the details, the deadline for RSVP-ing is Friday the 17th November.

6. School Disco

The Halloween disco was a great success with a big attendance. The photo booth by Mimi Matthews was amazing and the total raised was £221.30 with a little expense. The next disco will be 8th December and the photo booth will happen again. The question of charging for the booth and approaching Mimi about a fee was discussed and the fundraisers will sort this nearer the time. The Parent Council would like to thank those who organise it and those who attended.

7. School Website

With Kenny moving soon he will be unable to update the Parent Council side and they have created a login for Kath. She has logged in but would need to look at it more, hopefully liaising with Kenny before he moves.

8. Vice-chair Position

This is still unfilled, but Cat had proposed to John that she would take on the role as Rachel Mitchell had been approached to join as a fundraiser. Mrs Steel seconded this and Cat was welcomed as vice-chair.

9. Day/Time of meetings

A pole had been taken about the meetings taking place on different days or times. There had been 8 responses, and these were discussed. The main issue with holding the meetings during the day would be the loss of teachers who attended, and the Parent Council were keen for this to continue as it is a great benefit to them. It was agreed that meetings should stay as they are and hopefully parents could make some through the year.

10. Fundraising

Christmas Fayre – this is on the 18th November and a request for chocolate has gone out already. We hope to wrap them on Friday 17th and the amount of cellophane would be checked. If anyone can help please let Cat, Rebecca, Louise or Kath know. We are also doing a Guess the Name for a GIANT bear, the voucher squares again but this time for shopping vouchers and some Christmas bracelets made by Louise's sister. The vouchers and any leftover bracelets would also be on sale at the Conversation Café at the Resource Centre.

A Ladies day out has been organised for 25th November to see Bad Moms at Christmas. There will be a raffle on the bus with some amazing prizes! There would still be a few spaces left on the bus and a shout would be put out nearer the time to try and fill them.

11. Date for Burns Ceilidh

The band has been booked for 26th January 2018 and their details passed on from Kenny. The café would be approached for prices again (Vicki Buckman-Brown would see to this.) More details would be organised after Christmas.

12. Christmas Gifts

We are hoping Georgie will continue her great help on this! There are 107 pupils in school and it was thought £4 per person would be achievable. It was also asked if we could provide something for Santa and provide food again this year. and a sub-committee would ensure it all was done.

13. AOB

Debbie asked about helping with the school and how parents were asked. It was thought notes went out when needed but for more long term helping a PVG check and volunteer pack needed completing. Mrs McCarthy would be able to help with this.

Debbie also had examples of plastic covers to help protect library books which were again going home. The simple example was an A4 folder of strong plastic for £6.70 for 50. It was thought that the larger books from younger children would not fit and A3 ones would be needed. The Parent Council agreed to look into this and purchase them, or go through Mrs McCarthy as necessary.

Inspection.

Mrs Steel informed us the short model inspection of the last 2½ days had gone well. The whole school was looked at – pupils' work, learning and teaching, attainment and achievement, and as part of this, leadership and management and self-evaluation. Feedback had been given but could not be shared until in a formal format, but the school had done well and they would not need to come back. It was thought the report would be out at the end of the year, or soon into next.

The Parent Council had been recognised for the work it does and the good working relationship it has; this is valued by the school along with the positive impact it has on the work of the school. John congratulated the School on the positive feedback he had received and we all look forward to seeing the report.

There is always room for improvement, and any areas for improvement had already been identified by the school and the inspectors recognised this.

The inspectors had thought the building a little tired in places and the Parent Council recommitted their resolution to be more verbal with the Council and Councillors and try and gain some funding for improvements.

14. Date for next meeting

Wednesday 7th February 2018, 6.30pm

It was decided that the usual meeting at the beginning of January could be postponed allowing for the inspection report to be issued. That meeting is essentially to organise the ceilidh could be held by the fundraisers and anyone else interested in the first week of term on an informal basis – this meeting will be held on the 10th January 2018 at 6.30pm at a venue to be decided nearer the time. If you are interested, please let Cat, Rebecca, Louise or Kath know and we will keep you informed.