

Friends of Maud School Parent Council

Minutes

Wednesday 3rd February 2021

Present: Louise Muir (Co-chair), Christine Wood (co-chair), Lynne Pirie (Treasurer), Katie Fordyce (Secretary), Mrs Steel, Miss McWilliam, Kath O'Connor, Miss Lawson, Mrs McCue, Donna Sutherland, Cat Anderson, Louise Cran, Rachael Smith, Annette Clark.

Apologies: John and Georgie Curno, Rebecca Cassie

Minutes from previous meeting:

Katie read through these and there were no matters arising from them.

Head Teachers Report:

(Government Update, Feedback from parents, Parent Appointments)

Our school hub is currently operating with approx. 14 children per day. We have staff working on a rota to minimise the number of people in the school at one time and are continuing to follow risk assessments and government to ensure safety and lower the chance of transmission.

The children in the hub are accessing the same learning as the children learning at home and are using TEAMS in the same way. We understand that TEAMS can be and has been 'glitchy' at times, however this is the platform that will continue to be used this year. Mintlaw Academy rely on TEAMS heavily so at least our children should be proficient by the time they get to S1!

Parental appointments next week – **Tuesday 3.30-5pm and Thursday 6-7.30pm. P1 have extra slots on Wednesday from 3:30pm-5pm.** You should have already communicated your preferred time slot and your class teacher will call you. Appointments will last for 10mins and will be an update of progress during term 1 and 2 plus a check in. A confirmation of appointments, along with a document to sign has been issued today and needs to be returned by the end of this week.

The document being issued, is to maintain a calm and professional environment on the call. Phone appointments are very different to our normal procedures and we must protect our staff, who may be vulnerable to being on the receiving end of frustrated parents.

Government update 2.2.21

The First Minister reported yesterday that all P1-3 MIGHT be able to return, full time from February 22nd. This will be welcomed, and we will need to plan how this will work for our P3/4 class in particular.

She also suggested that staff should have access to Covid testing kits twice per week, which would be a really positive move forward to ensure the safety of the staff in our school and limit the community spread.

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Parents should continue to adhere to the 'stay at home order', wear masks and maintain 2m distance from other adults. We cannot become complacent and end up going backwards.

Last week, we issued a form to generate some feedback from parents and children regarding home learning at this time. We have had 45 responses from parents so far and 37 from children. Feedback has been very positive to date and we will be able to provide a summary once the closing date has passed.

Parents are encouraged to respond to this feedback please. It is extremely useful and will help form guidance should we ever be in this position again. Thank you.

Treasurers report:

Thank you to everyone that supports our fundraisers. An update of what has gone on in the past few months.

I'm a celebrity raised £200 which was donated straight to class teachers.

The Christmas Window display raised £240. Tarwathie Crafts very kindly donated a Christmas decoration of the winning display – Well done again Louise Cran!

Mrs Harrower made an extremely generous donation of £100 to the Parent Council at Christmas time, in lieu of her toffee donations and general inability to support the school this year. A thank you card was sent with our thanks for her generosity.

We have received our council funding of £285.90 and Lynne also finally banked the euro that was handed in at our Christmas concert in 2019, so that was another £41.30.

Our main expense last term was the children's Christmas gifts and food for their parties (£306.74) and a couple of staff leaving gifts (£40) and finally the lottery licence renewal (£20). So as of January 2021, our balance is £1034.03.

Fundraising:

Opinions were asked as to how everyone is feeling about fundraising at the moment. The Disco ladies have very kindly organised another lucky squares hamper and will be revealing that as soon as possible with the hopes of it being drawn before Valentines day, so please keep a look out for that. It was suggested that maybe something about the same time as when the coffee evening would take place would be good. The treat boxes of biscuits and cakes that were done for the Macmillan coffee morning was suggested as the children really enjoyed that. Annette very kindly agreed to help with this if this is something that is decided upon.

Maud School Football:

Training is still cancelled until such time as government and SYFA guidance allows us to return. We will send out any communications about this via email to our footballing parents. We have a committee meeting via zoom planned for next Monday at 8pm, just really to touch base with everyone and speak about any questions or concerns. We have no idea

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at the moment if we will be allowed to have a gala this year. We are however going to go over our gala planning list at the meeting in the hope that we are given the go ahead.

A.O.B:

The topic of P1/2 not receiving any live interaction sessions from Miss McWilliam was raised and asked if there was any way that even a short story could be read to them. Other classes seem to have benefited from seeing and interacting with their classmates and whilst it is understood that this would be a lot harder for the little ones, it was thought that something might be good for them. Mrs McCue and Miss McWilliam explained that this is for several reasons. There is a lot of red tape surrounding this and whilst Miss McWilliam would love to do live interactive sessions, it is just not possible. P1-2 do not have access to glow or any passwords and again there are lots of regulations about providing these to parents. As it is hoped that P1-3 will return to school on the 22nd February, this topic should not be an issue, however the school have tried very hard to find solutions to the ever changing guidance but unfortunately have not been successful in this.

Louise thanked everyone for attending.

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 28th April at 6.30pm – All Welcome.