

Friends of Maud School Parent Council

Minutes

Wednesday 9th November 2022

Shona Esslemont (chair), Caroline Simpson (Vice chair), Catherine Moran (Treasurer), Vicki Gibson (Secretary), Mrs Steel, Mrs McCue, Mrs Sutton, Miss McWilliam, Donna Sutherland, Jill Gibson, Kate Noble, Cat Anderson, Katie Fordyce, Sarah McQuaid, Rachael Mitchell, Claire Lawrance, Louise Brown,

Apologies:

Lynne Pirie, Fiona Spence, Leah Middleton, Annette Clark, Emma Buchan, Rachael Smith

Shona welcomed everyone and suggested that we tried to make online meetings easier for people to speak. She suggested that we use the hand up feature on teams if you want to raise anything and she will pause at the end of everything to check to see if anyone has anything to say.

Minutes from previous meeting:

Shona read through these. No matters arising and they were approved by Catherine Moran and seconded by Caroline Simpson.

Head Teacher's report:

We are pleased to report that our teachers and children are working so hard and the school is just such a nice place to be. The enthusiasm is palpable, behaviour is great and we are also so pleased that we are able to reinstate our open door policy following the last few years so that our wider community can be part of that too. We have some events planned in the lead up to Christmas that we'll update you on when we speak about Christmas.

We have just started a new spelling scheme across the whole school, funded by the generous Parent Council donation. We had spotted some gaps in spelling and have spent time assessing all children and placing them onto the scheme as appropriate. The scheme itself is one which is widely used in many schools across Scotland and we had spoken to some other schools which used it and took feedback from them before purchasing. The way we have launched the new scheme has meant that some children are moving classrooms and learning their new sounds with a different teacher so that their teaching input is more focussed and in depth as teachers have less groups to teach. Some children may also be re-visiting some spelling

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rules you may recognise but this is simply because they were highlighted in the placement assessment.

We will reassess and make any necessary changes to groupings after we have let the system run for a term.

Homework has changed slightly so that all classes are following the same pattern. This is for a few reasons - to ensure whole school consistency, allowing families to enjoy the weekends minus homework and it also allows teachers more time to assess and plan next steps for children. Spelling is now issued on a Monday and back on a Friday. Maths will also follow this pattern. Reading may run out with the Mon-Fri routine depending on how each teacher runs her week. Teachers may also issue one-off pieces of homework (presentations, personal projects, book reviews etc) but you should receive plenty of notice for any piece of homework that is out with the norm.

Treasurers report:

Our balance at this moment is £1131.77. The Halloween disco took in £278.80 then after expenses of £204.95 we made a profit of £73.85. We have opened a new bank account with Virgin money and are in the process of closing old bank account down.

New Spelling Scheme:

Mrs Steel and Mrs McCue went through this in their head teachers report.

Homework:

Vicki explained that she had, had a few parents ask if homework could be discussed at a meeting. They were unsure why homework had changed. Families are getting less time to complete the growing amount of homework. With kids having so much after school clubs often weekends was the only time they had.

Mrs McCue and Mrs Steel explained that it had changed for a number of reasons.

Consistency unifies - It gives pupils, teachers and parents consistency throughout the school. It is easier that throughout the school years everyone is out on a Monday and back on a Friday.

When it was out on a Tuesday, back in a Monday it was a lot for the teachers to try mark and plan for the next week.

It gives families a homework free weekend.

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Vicki had said it can be a lot for the kids to do after school and can sometimes take hours to try doing it with them. Mrs Sutton suggested a timer approach. Only do 10/15mins a night. Set a timer and see how much they can do. Mrs Steel said to remember Spelling, reading and maths are the essential homework. Katie added she was happy about the new homework but asked if parents could get more information about their homework, so we can pass it on to our children. Words/spelling can be very different so nice to manage to explain to them why they have these.

It has only been 2 weeks so we need to let everyone get into a routine with it and hopefully be better.

Christmas:

Wednesday 7th December - Christmas Lunch and Craft Fayre
Parent Council were asked if they could help with stalls and serving teas.

Wednesday 14th December - Concert at village Hall, will be an afternoon and evening performance.

Christmas Parties

Thursday 15th December - P1/2/3

Friday 16th December - P4/5

Monday 19th December - P6/7

Mrs Steel asked what we were planning for food at the parties and that there is a few dietary requirements. Shona said we were planning to do bags again with juice, crisps and sweets in it. Miss McWilliam asked if we could tell her in advanced what we were having as she has a diabetic in her class to pass on to their mum.

Friday 16th December - Christmas disco

Wednesday 21st December - Church Service

The Parent council are asking for donation for hampers. They are doing a lucky square raffle to win a hamper. We are hoping to have a couple of hamper if we get enough donations. We are looking for any donations of chocolate/sweets, non alcoholic/alcoholic bottles. If you could hand in to school or any parent council member by Wednesday 16th November that would be gratefully appreciated.

Face to Face Meetings:

friendsofmaudspc@gmail.com

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We have had a few parents asking if we can go back to face to face meetings. We have discussed this before and agreed that there is better attendance at the online meetings but we would be open to ask again. We discussed the pros and cons of both and was also suggested we could do face to face with an option of joining in online. Mrs steel and Mrs McCue said they were happy to go with the majority. They could see benefits of either. We agreed we would do an online poll so see what the majority of people think. Vicki said she would put it on parent council facebook page with options of Teams meetings, face to face or mostly online but do face to face for agm.

Burns Supper:

We are going ahead with our Burns Supper next year. It will be Friday 27th January at the village hall. More information to follow. Mrs McCue asked if we would like children to read out their poems, Caroline said yes we were hoping they would.

Football:

Cat gave us an update of what's been happening with football. She said their winter training sessions are back in full swing. Younger ones at hall and older ones at New Deer astro turf. The Strathythan indoor league is starting on Saturday 12th November for P6-7 children. We only have the bare minimum available for a team with no subs so fingers crossed we have no illnesses. The P4-5s in the B league start on the 26th of November and continues until March. Its going to be on Saturday mornings instead of evenings due to janitors availability at the academy. Coaches are in the process of planning our annual kids day out, details will follow. Thank you to the few new p1 parents that have volunteered to come on the hall duty rota. We are still looking for new parents to join as coaches, if anyone is interested please get in touch.

A.O.B:

Mrs Sutton reminded us that she is doing a book swap. She has had a lot of books in already but looking for older ones books as not as much of them so far. Katie added that she thought this was an amazing idea. Kids are very excited about it.

Caroline mentioned about changing things at the disco. The disco went well but there were a few issues. It was thought we could make sure all P3s and under must be accompanied by an

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adult and all older ones must be dropped off and a contact number left in case of any issues. We will try this at Christmas disco and see if this is better.

Vicki mentioned that there had been an issue with school meals this week. There wasn't enough meals for all the kids and had to get more from New Deer sent down. Mrs Steel said this was hopefully a one off and won't happen again.

Shona thanked everyone for attending.

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 18th January 2023 @ 6.30pm - All welcome