

Minute of Mile End Parent Council Meeting 12th March 2014 7pm

Present: Abbe Brown (AB), Moira MacIver (MM), Janet McRoberts (JM), Eleanor Sheppard (ES), Luke Halliday (LH, Chair), Alex Nicoll (AN), Jonathan Scott, Richard Taylor

PTA REPORT & CONSTITUTION - FIONA DANIEL

AVCO have advised that some small modifications be made to the existing constitution that is being updated for approval at the 2014 AGM. The PTA is making a register of members and creating a separation between those who wish to be trustees of the PTA charity and those who prefer to give support and assistance only. Certain meetings, to discuss finances for example, will be limited to those who are trustees. AVCO have advised that the PTA should be independent of the MEPC and to remove the subcommittee status from the constitution. Some concern was raised over loss of the explicit connection between the two groups and the protection this offers the PTA in times of difficulty. Fiona advises however that the guidance is clear and the charitable status prevents the PTA from being a subcommittee of the parent council. AVCO will advise OSCR during the process of updating the constitution and the PTA will communicate progress to the parent forum and explain the changes being made. The PTA must demonstrate that they acting to the best of their ability as trustees of the charity.

AN raised a concern that losing the explicit link between the PTA and the PC would be detrimental to the recent improvements in governance. He understands that maintaining the PTA as part of the PC is permissible under the rules as advised by OSCR.

Fiona took the committee through the plans to raise funds for outside play equipment. This will consist of a permanent play area containing large scale pieces for climbing, balancing and playing music. The school is very supportive of this proposal. A major fundraising drive will be launched looking for both private and corporate sponsorship. The PTA are seeking grants from a number of bodies and planning various fundraising activities with the school.

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT - ELEANOR SHEPPARD

Coached sports trips to the Sports Village have been arranged for P3 to P7 as part of the Commonwealth games activities. In addition the running club will be attending the intra schools cross country and have new running kit issued to the running club members. Active schools will be organising a series of fun runs with an email be issued shortly.

The school show is proving hugely popular with both pupils and parents with tickets selling quickly.

School reports have been issued but this will be the last year of this format. The withdrawal of the current MIS supplier is forcing a change to another system and therefore format. The report will contain the same information but both staff and parents will have to go through a period of familiarisation.

The recent in-service day covered various areas of school improvement including developing a draft science policy, rolling out Spellodrome for P3 to P5, completing the school audit and developing our use of Accelerated reader.

New positions have been successfully recruited for. These are a PSA, Rm17 teacher and a language specialist. Also staff were filmed as part of a recruitment drive to attract more teachers to Aberdeen.

Two members of staff will be visiting Rwanda, linking in to Global Citizen project, to teach over the summer and will be fundraising to support their trip.

There have been 100 responses from parents to the school audit. Feedback is being drafted and input from the MEPC will be sought. Key audit points will be discussed at the next MEPC

meeting and the school will act on the responses received. Eleanor requested that any parent raising questions over the school audit and seeking answers from the school she be asked to contact herself directly.

A discussion followed on whether the reports should contain an indicator of a child's performance in relation to their class. Eleanor advised that the school would not include this information as it was felt to be misleading and the measure provided of performance against a national year group was sufficient.

TREASURER'S REPORT - EUAN MILNE (by email)

Suggestions are requested for items to spend the MEPC funds on. Supporting the Rwandan trip was proposed. LH will check the council policy for what the funds can be used for.

RAEDEN PLANNING APPLICATION - LUKE HALLIDAY

Proposal of Application Notice 140044 submitted by Dandarra

The Dandarra development of the former Raeden school site is proposing to build 24 3 or 4 bedroom houses and 122 2 bedroom apartments. Planning permission has not yet been requested although a consultation process has taken place. It was agreed that the MEPC would respond to with an email outlining our concern that the pressure for places, which already exists at Mile End, would be made significantly worse without Dandarra consulting with the school and providing funds to mitigate this impact.

It was noted that there are various other building schemes in the Mile End catchment area driving the capacity problem. Jenny Laing stated that we had to have adequate capacity and that the Education Officer was very aware of the situation.

It was agreed that LH would phone the planning officer concerned and ask to be kept informed. (Tommy Hart, telephone 01224 523126, email tomhart@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

EVENTS UPDATE - ALL

The careers fair, to be held on Friday 9th May from 10.00 to 12.00, is receiving volunteers to talk to the children, although the appeal sent through the cascade has had a poor response to date. Various roles were filled from suggestions around the table.

Global Citizen is joining the Unicef campaign to have primary education available for all children across the globe and also support the 'send my friend to school' campaign (<http://www.sendmyfriend.org/>)

FLOODLIGHTS UPDATE - ALEX NICOLL

No further progress reported.

INSURANCE/MINUTES - ALEX NICOLL

It has been proposed that all Aberdeen City parent councils will take insurance through the council insurance company. The first year will be funded by ACC and thereafter cost £53, which is a reduction on the price of the insurance available through her SCPC

MEPC OFFICE BEARERS & SUCCESSION - ALL

Alex Nicoll requested volunteers to take over attendance for the Termly and Parent Council forum once he leaves the parent council this summer.

AOCB

There was no other business.