

FRIENDS OF CULTELCULLEN SCHOOL MEETING

Room R112, Meldrum Academy

Monday 10th February 2020 from 6:15pm to 7:30pm

Present: Susan Watt (Chairperson), Jane Brebner (Secretary), Judith McKenzie (Treasurer), Alison Gagne (Head Teacher), Nicole Scott (Acting Head Teacher), Kirsty Kemp, Lynsey MacAlister, Mike Whyment, Vikki Janetta, Mae Campbell, Shona Gray, Nicky Strachan, Annie Grant, Jenny Fyall, Rhona Marr, Emma Garrow, Marie Gilpin & Cllr Andrew Hassan.

Apologies: Rhonda Robson, Amber Reaper, Samantha McGregor, Helen MacPherson, Gemma Laing, Lynsey Duthie, Lynsey Ayton, Joy Davies, Erin Dickson, Gayle McCombie, Sarah Aiken & Megan Hicks.

1. Welcome and apologies:

Susan Watt welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was well attended. Apologies were received.

2. Minutes of meeting on 3rd November 2019

Minutes were approved. Susan Watt thanked Jane Brebner for the minutes.

3. Matters Arising:

Susan Watt confirmed the following:

- Update on amalgamating the two FOCS accounts and on proposed moving to online banking and procedures - Judith McKenzie has now completed the merging of the two accounts and moving to online banking of the one account, which will be finalised over the coming weeks. **ACTION:** Judith McKenzie asked to put out Bank Account details to be used when parents wish to pay via BACS.
- Funding approved for 11 new Laptops. 1 laptop has been delivered and set up. The remaining 10 laptops have now been delivered to Meldrum Academy where ICT will build them and then delivered and set up at the school by the week commencing 17th February 2020. **UPDATE:** Following the meeting, the 10 remaining laptops were installed at the school on 13th February 2020.

4. Chairperson's Report:

Susan Watt confirmed the following:

- Thanked all those that helped with purchasing Christmas presents, the Christmas parties and purchasing of party food – Nicky, Kirsty, Rhona, Joy, Lynsey and herself. Santa was thanked and a bottle of wine provided. It is unsure whether Santa will continue next school year.
- Email sent out to all parents regarding consultation from the Scottish Government. Please fill in if possible.
- Currently due to change in legislation, the School bus is now free for those who currently pay. Refunds for the remaining 6 months of the school year will be paid back into Parent's bank accounts. Please check your accounts to ensure this has been undertaken and if not contact Aberdeenshire Council as per the letter issued. This decision may be reversed in the future.
- The Sinclair family were thanked and a card with a bottle of wine provided for another fantastic Christmas tree. They are no longer selling Christmas trees but worth contacting next school year.

5. Treasurer's Report:

- **Judith McKenzie** confirmed the balance of the following account:

FOCS Account 2019/2020:

Opening Balance	£331.77
Income	+ £4,367.36
Balance	£4,699.13
Expenditure	<u>-£2,369.55</u>
Closing Balance	<u>£2,329.58</u>

- Funding to come off:
Playground painting - £150 funded by FOCS.
Bid has been put forward to the Hill of Fiddes Wind Turbines funding for the meeting on Wednesday 12th February 2020.
Also, Apple Vouchers - £75, Curling Trip - £300, Board Games - £150
- There are plans for further trips, including a whole School Trip in Term 4. Donations to be asked for.
- Susan Watt confirmed that FOCS funded £120 for Panto tickets where donations had not been received and highlighted that with the school pupil roll continuing to rise each year, there needs to be a discussion on cost and whether it is sustainability for FOCS to continue to cover unpaid theatre tickets at a cost of £12 per child.
It was suggested where parents could tick a box on the school letter issued with each trip, highlighting if parents wish to donate. Mrs Gagne confirmed that the school currently monitors letters and donations received back from parents for all school trips but this would be further discussed and amended where required.
- **Marie Gilpin** provided an update confirming the balance of the following account:
Cultercullen Football Team **£900.19** (as of 10/02/2020)
- Susan Watt advised that Cultercullen Football Team currently have both an A & B team in the Indoor Strathythan League, where both teams are performing extremely well and expressed her thanks to the Coaches: Drew, George, Euan and Andrew.
- Susan Watt also advised that Cultercullen Netball Team have performed well at their first event at Meldrum Academy, winning all their matches, with thanks to Rhonda and Mandy for their time in coaching the team. The team will be playing at Kemnay Academy on Tuesday.

Susan Watt thanked Judith McKenzie and Marie Gilpin for their account update.

6. Head Teacher Report (Mrs. Gagne):

- As mentioned at last meeting all classes have timetabled periods outside throughout the school week as part of outdoor learning.
- Confirmed that following discussions with Meldrum Academy, Spanish will be taught as the second language for P5-7 at Cultercullen next school year. All Children will still have French taught.
- Mrs Rodman is off work until after Easter holidays and her position will be covered by Ms Massie and two other people, which is still to be confirmed. Mrs Bell is currently off sick, and they asked parents to call if their email have not been responded to.
- School skype phones not working as expected and Mike Whyment asked for this to be looked in to as a matter of priority on the grounds of safety.
ACTION: To be escalated and investigated by our councillors.
- Confirmed that 9 new P1 pupils will be attending Cultercullen School in August 2020, resulting in an increase in the School pupil roll to 56 pupils for 2020/2021 school year.
- Following the visit by 3 QIO's last week, initial feedback was extremely positive, highlighting that outdoor learning and sustainability within the classroom, along with Learning & Teaching are very strong, the 4 learning indicators are also very solid. It also highlighted the huge improvement within the school this year in all areas and the need to continue this going forward next year. There are great ideas being moved forward and key next steps for the school. The QIO's also reported that the feedback from the Children group and Parent group attended was also extremely positive.

It was raised if the final report could be provided to the Parents.

ACTION: Mrs Gagne to update on the final QIO report at the next meeting.

- Discussion about when open afternoons and parent interviews take place. Currently in Term 1 and Term 4. Jenny Fyall asked about changing the parent interview to Term 3, leaving time to make changes.
- HTs do have an open-door policy and parents are more than welcome to speak to HTs or make an appointment.
- Susan Watt thanked both Mrs Gagne and Mrs Scott for their continuing commitment to the School this year, highlighting the work undertaken within the classroom and outdoor, improved communication and the school trips.
- Beehive to be placed on land in Greenfields, more details to follow soon.
- Eco-Group have arranged for a beach litter pick as part of working towards their Green Flag on Sunday 26th April 2020 from 10.45am to 12 noon. Parents and children are asked to help with details to follow.

7. Fundraising

- Susan Watt confirmed the following at the meeting:
 - Windmill Funding bids has been put forward to Hill of Fiddes Wind Turbines for Playground painting and new Urn (Water Boiler). If the bid is successful, the school will arrange for this to be undertaken on Saturday 21st March 2020 and asked for parents help. Details to follow.
 - As part of the playground painting large outdoor chess and draught set to be purchased too. There will also be a Twister board painted on the playground, which have all been requested by the school children.
- Bags-to-School (20 May 2020)
- Spring Fayre 2020 - Saturday 16th May from 10am to 1pm.
 - Shona Gray suggested that a football gala take place at the same time. It was agreed this would happen. The field would need to be marked out.
ACTION: HTs said they would speak to the Janitor about this. School would be able to do this for the Football Gala.
 - Stall Holders welcomed - £10 for a table plus providing a Raffle Prize.
 - Raffle prizes - ALL Parents to approach local businesses to ask for them. Everyone's help is needed for this.
 - There will be Teas & Coffees plus Soup and Cakes.
 - **ACTION:** Jane Brebner to create poster, with timings for Vegimals Competition and when Raffle will be drawn. Plus, email Jane with any stall holders willing to take a table.

8. AOB

- Nicky Strachan highlighted that Susan Watt has until the end of the school year of being Chairperson and highlighted the need to find a replacement. Susan Watt asked that parents either speak to herself or email if anyone wished to discuss the role.
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9. Date of Next Meeting:

- The next meeting will take place on **Monday 27th April 2020** at Cultercullen School from **6:15pm**.

The list of future FOCS meetings for 2019/2020 school year are listed below:
22 June 2020 (Cultercullen School) - AGM