

Minute of the Parent Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9 February 2016 at 6.00pm in the Principal's Office

Present: Ollie Clegg (Deputy Chair)
Lewis Paterson (Acting Principal)
Ken Campbell (Treasurer)
Kristyna Macsween
Anne-Marie Mooney (Minutes)

Apologies: Jackie Smith, Amanda Campbell

1. Minute of the last meeting

The minute of the meeting held on 3 November 2015 was approved as a correct record.

2. Principal's Report

Lewis advised that Nick Burge has joined us as Deputy Head he's settled well into the school. Pauline Sharp remains as Acting Deputy Head with us for the time being. Monica Webster has been appointed Music teacher on a part time basis as maternity leave cover for Kate Aitken.

Lewis will be meeting with teaching staff to plan staffing for the next session as we have a reduction in staffing numbers. Lewis has shared frustration with reduction in Positive Action funding with Senior Education Managers. There will be a review of Business Support within the school as part of the wider Transformational Change exercise. This is a period of unsettlement however staff have had developmental opportunities around the school.

Kristyna and Lewis have been preparing the new timetable for students, aiming to have it in operation from 6th June 2016.

The refurbishment works are continuing - Home Economics Department have returned to their refurbished Department and the new Science laboratories have been completed. Work is planned to start on the ground floor of C Block over the summer break with work timetabled to start in October to A Block including the Senior Team offices, Admin offices, Recreation offices, meeting rooms etc.

Prelims are taking place at the moment, Lewis will be organising meetings with Curriculum Leaders to go over results and ensure support is put in place for all students that require it. Ann Robertson our QIO may also attend meetings.

For Session 2016/17 we will have changes in staffing and are awaiting clarification on leadership in school. Our school roll is predicted to rise to 285 students in total next session. Lewis is writing to all cluster P7 parents offering a tour of the school and will be aiming to increase the school roll, change parents perceptions and dispel some myths at a cluster open forum in October. The school is in a strong position with academic performance and attainment on a par with other secondary schools.

Next session a Curriculum Working Group will research ideas and look at how we encourage more of our students to stay on beyond S4, improve positive destinations and maximise employability and academic performance. The group will also look at how we can put together bespoke packages for students with a combination of school, key employers and tap into the spectrum of college courses that are available.

We are investing in IT to support changes to the timetable and looking at a variety of ways that we can enhance attainment and retain students until at least the end of S5 including the Career Ready programme. One of the benefits of our school roll is that we can get to know our students very well and build close working relationships.

Leisure Attendants

Lewis informed the Parent Council that 9 Community staff have taken voluntary redundancy, the Leisure Attendants helped to supervise areas around the building and provided general support around the Centre.

3G Sports Pitches

Ollie proposed a draft letter highlighting the lack of synthetic pitches (3G) at WHEC. As the outside pitches are not suitable for playing on at all at the moment we are without any pitches at all. WHEC is one of the major service providers for recreation facilities in the South West area of the City and investment in 3G pitches would bring revenue to the Centre, help pay for the pitch itself and benefit students and the wider community. It was agreed that the letter should be sent to all local councillors and the Convenor of Culture & Sports Committee and the Education, Children & Families Committee.

Edible Estates

Lewis has had an approach from Edible Estates to develop some of the school grounds into a food growing space, with the school benefitting from organic fruit and vegetables, students could also develop horticultural skills and experience. The resource would be managed by the local community with involvement from other groups like the Cyrenians and the local food co-operative.

3. Treasurer's Report

Ken provided an update on the balance of the Parent Council account – currently £472.16.

4. Any Other Business

Parent Council Chair

The current Chair of the Parent Council, Jackie Smith, has indicated that she would like to step down. It was agreed to discuss recruitment of more parents to the Parent Council and the appointment of a new Chair at the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting – it was proposed that we change the time of the meeting in a bid to attract new members; it was agreed that the next meeting would be at the new time of **3.00pm on Wednesday 20th April 2016**.