

Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting
held on the 15th September 2015 in the
Principal's Office at 6.00pm

Present: Jackie Smith (Chair)
Ollie Clegg (Deputy Chair)
Stuart Heggie (Acting Head Teacher)
Ken Campbell (Treasurer)
Amanda Campbell
Kristyna Macsween
Anne-Marie Mooney (Minutes)

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minute of the meeting held on 2nd June 2015 was approved.

Matters Arising:

SW Neighbourhood Meeting

Jackie was unable to attend the last SW Neighbourhood Meeting on 9th September.

Refurbishment and Building Works

Stuart reported that Science are now back in the Department, new windows are very efficient and thermostatic controls are now needed to control the temperature as it's very hot in the classrooms. Home Economics are back up and running in one kitchen. Councillor Fullerton visited the school recently to see the progress that's being made.

Positive Action Funding

A letter was sent at the end of Summer term from the Parent Council to Convenor and Vice-Convenor Education Children & Families Committee, Director of Children & Families, Head of Schools & Community Services, all local Councillors, Gordon MacDonald MSP and Joanna Cherry MP with responses received by Ollie.

In her response, Councillor Fullerton confirmed that the current formula is mainly based on Free Meal and Clothing Grant entitlement (70%) with the remaining 30% linked to baseline literacy attainment. Cllr Fullerton also acknowledged that this formula does not recognise improving attainment.

Cllr Fullerton confirmed that the Council are reviewing the funding formula for primary schools and focussing on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation instead of attainment and free meal and clothing grant entitlement. Once the primary school review has been completed the Council will move on to review secondary schools. If this goes ahead this would mean that the context of the school community would become the main driver of the funding support received. Cllr Fullerton also acknowledged the improved attainment and attendance at the school and agreed that this is a credit to the hard work of the Senior Team and all staff in the school.

Stuart confirmed that we have the highest free school meal entitlement in the city, literacy at primary level hasn't improved but attainment has, we have lost 1.5FTE as a result of the reduction in Positive Action Funding. The Parent Council were reassured that the Council will be reviewing the funding formula and will await the outcome.

2. Treasurers Report

Ken circulated the current balance of the Parent Council account at £968.71 including funding of £603.53 received from the authority at the end of June. It was agreed that there was sufficient funds to now meet the bids from Social Studies and Health and Wellbeing Faculties, leaving a balance of £472.16. Ken proposed that the Parent Council undertake a fundraising activity to boost funds available. It was agreed to discuss further at the next meeting aiming for Spring 2016. Kristyna suggested that the Student Council be involved.

3. Head Teacher's Report

Stuart confirmed that the School Improvement Plan will be reviewed by the Senior Team at the end of September.

Stuart and Jackie attended the P7/S1 Transition Evening in June where one parent of new S1 expressed an interest in joining the Parent Council. This was followed up by Stuart who invited them to come to the meeting.

Stuart provided the Parent Council with a breakdown of Higher results by the end of S6 over the last five years, this shows the huge jump in attainment that has taken place over the last 3 years. Improved academic attainment has been sustained since 2012. Stuart confirmed that a Higher appeal is pending for one of our students.

Stuart also circulated data from Insight comparing results for the school with our 'virtual comparator' for leavers in the lowest 30% SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation). In 2010 at virtually all award levels results were below or well below our comparator school by 2014 this has completely turned around and we have outperformed our virtual comparator at almost all award levels with results significantly above or well above our virtual comparator school. The Insight data shows the huge improvement in attainment that we have made.

Stuart informed the Parent Council this is down to the improvement in the quality of our learning and teaching; our mentoring and our excellent tracking and monitoring system that allows us to intervene early to support the learning process.

Stuart advised that Pauline Sharp has joined us as a Deputy Head. We have 2 probationary teachers – Claire Wilson in RME and Yvonne Finnie in Art. We have also been joined by new experienced staff – Paul Stewart in Maths and Shona Valentine in Business Administration. Stacey Lamb has replaced Kirsteen Scott in Geography and Gavin Ellis has joined the PE department. All our new staff have settled in magnificently.

Lewis Patterson, currently Deputy Head at Trinity Academic has been appointed Acting Head Teacher and will be joining us after the October holiday. Stuart advised he will be leaving the school at the end of October.

The Parent Council were delighted with the improved academic results and asked Stuart to congratulate staff on their behalf, they acknowledged that Stuart's leaving is a sad loss to the school.

4. AOCB

Anne-Marie reported that Lesley McGoohan had sadly passed away. Lesley was a former Parent Council member with two daughters that attended the school, she is well remembered. Condolences to be sent to the family.

Anne-Marie suggested that the Parent Council have their own email address, this would involve a payment from the school to BT to set up. It was agreed that this would help with communication and Anne-Marie will take forward as funding has been agreed.

Kristyna has been advised of 7 new businesses who will be acting as mentors for students as part of Career Ready (formerly known as Career Academy) programme. This has been a very positive initiative for the school with businesses keen to link with the school.

Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 3rd November 2015 at 6.00pm