

Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting
held on the 20th January 2015 in the
Principal's Office at 6.00pm

Present: Katrina Smith (Chair)
Ken Campbell (Treasurer)
Ollie Clegg (Deputy Chair)
Sheila Paton
Cllr Cathy Fullerton
Jackie Smith
Amanda Campbell
Bill Smith
Kristyna MacSween
Stuart Sinclair
Kanai Thomas
Anne-Marie Mooney (Minutes)

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minute of the meeting held on 4th November 2014 was approved.

Katrina welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Cllr Cathy Fullerton, our local councillor. Cllr Fullerton advised the meeting that she has 12 Parent Councils in her ward; although she is not able to come to every Parent Council meeting parents are welcome to contact her by email or phone on any issues that she can help with. Sheila thanked Cllr Fullerton for her support of the school in particular over the issue of school pitches.

Katrina thanked everyone who attended the Parent Forum meeting on 18th November. The Parent Council thanked Kristyna for organising Hospitality students to come to the event. Ollie commented on the wonderful spread and that the students were well turned out. Katie Ritchie gave an excellent presentation and demonstration on energy drinks. Although parent turn out wasn't as anticipated Ollie ensured the food wasn't wasted and went to a good cause.

Sheila pointed out that parental engagement is challenging across all schools, particularly at Secondary level. Cllr Fullerton advised that this is not restricted to schools there is also a concerning lack of involvement in Community Councils too.

Matters Arising:

RRED Campaign

Ollie has taken the message about the energy drinks campaign to his parish and the Church is now fully supportive. The campaign is raising awareness not only amongst parents and students of the school but also out in the wider community.

Communication with parents: A text message was sent out to all parents advising them of the Parent Forum meeting and of the Parent Council meeting tonight. Sheila advised that there had been some confusion about texts and the ideal methods to communicate with parents are the school website and the Parent Council noticeboard in school.

Training

Katrina advised that there is more recruitment and selection training available to Parent Council members. A course is being held in Liberton HS on 3rd March.

SW Neighbourhood Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 4th February at Currie HS. Katrina asked if a representative from the Parent Council would be able to attend as she is unable to. Katrina pointed out that the agenda for these meetings is not usually circulated in advance, leaving representatives unable to prepare in advance or ensure that the right person to discuss issues is at the meeting. Cllr Fullerton agreed to raise this with Moira Wilson.

Sainsbury's

Kristyna will re-instigate communication with Sainsbury's on the RRED Campaign. Kristyna reported that the local Lidl store have been very supportive and agreed to remove energy drinks from their counter area; stock is now in a less prominent position.

2. Principal's Report

Refurbishment and Building Works

Sheila reported that the Community Hall has been revamped and our front entrance has been refreshed and improved. The next phase is ready to begin in May, this phase will involve Science and HE. Block D – Art, Drama and CDT is almost complete and will be handed over on 13th February.

Staffing

- Sheila Cornes, DHT has moved to take up a seconded post, working on Positive Destinations at Waverley Court.
- Christine Karaciou, Maths is retiring at the end of this session.
- Marie Ritchie, PE is currently on maternity leave and is planning to return.
- We have two new teaching staff: Andy Pendry, Computing and Kate Aitken, Music.
- Janet Walker has been promoted to DHT post.

Interviews are taking place for maternity leave cover next week.

ICT

We have been successful in a recent bid for ICT funding from the Access to Education fund. Sheila reported that we will be able to purchase iPads for pupils at our cluster primary schools.

All S3 students will be issued with iPads in the next few weeks.

The Art Room

The Art Room is now well embedded with six groups up and running and pupils from primary schools starting in the coming weeks.

Recreation

The Recreation team will be piloting spin cycling and we have purchased bikes and will be using a squash court as a trial.

Improvement Plan

We continue to focus on improving attendance, attainment and achievement with the additional focus on including Parents/carers in the life of the school.
Our new system of 1:1 meetings with parents has also been very successful.

Website

The school website has been completed and continues to be developed. The site had 1,101 sessions during the first week of January, with 230 sessions on the 2nd January, the page most visited after the Home page was the Leisure Pool.

Exchange Teacher

Social Subjects Department are hosting an exchange student until the beginning of February.

Leader of the Year

Cllr Fullerton paid tribute to Sheila who was recognised at the recent CEC Pride in our People Awards as Leader of the Year.

3. Treasurer's Report

Ken advised that the balance of the account is £563.50. Associated costs for Parent Forum meeting – buffet approx. £50.00 (details to be provided by Kristyna) and costs for copying, postage, text messages £76.05 in total, plus costs for text message to parents advising of Parent Council meeting £8.13 are pending. Payment to clerk to be arranged at next meeting.

It was suggested that recent Department bids that weren't successful could be considered or the Parent Council could sponsor a drama/art/talent competition. Agreed to look at funding current interdisciplinary activity "Pack Up Your Troubles" which will ultimately lead to a performance by students.

Ken confirmed he is now a signatory for the account.

4. RRED Campaign

Kristyna now has 17 students that have volunteered to be trained in how to approach local shops and encourage them to sign up to the RRED campaign. The Student Council are also actively engaged in the campaign. Katie Ritchie, as well as providing an excellent presentation at the Parent Forum meeting has visited the shops at Wester Hailes Plaza promoting the campaign. Cllr Norma Austin Hart and colleagues will be supporting students through training.

5. AOCB

Katrina informed the Parent Council that she is planning to step down from the position of Chair at the end of the academic year, Bill will also be stepping down. Sheila expressed thanks to Katrina and Bill, in particular to Katrina for being a strong voice and respected advocate for the school over the last few years.

The Parent Council thanked Cllr Fullerton for coming to the meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parent Council is **Tuesday 17th March 2015.**