

NOTE OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING OF: Portobello High School Parent Council

HELD AT: Portobello High School – Library

DATE: 26 October 2015

TIME: 7:00 pm

PRESENT: Tom Ballantine (Chair), Alison Fotheringham (Acting HT), Ruth McKay, Gillian Kennedy, Sue Davidson, Emma Wood, Michael McTernan, Donald McGregor, Charles Marriott, Jacquie Robertson, Hazel Bett, Alison Anderson, Gica Loening, John Lauder, Isabelle McGeekan, Heather Tubb
Apologies: Lynn Myles, Maureen Child, Carole Tracey, Sean Watters, Hazel Nicolson, Juliet MacArthur

Action:

1. Introductions

TB welcomed Ruth McKay, newly appointed Head Teacher.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of meeting held on 14 September 2015 were approved as correct.

Follow up points:

- MM has studied the school website and suggested areas where improvements and updates are needed. To be further discussed after RM has had opportunity to review. It was agreed that for the Parent Council portal, a Survey Monkey questionnaire would be a useful tool to discover what information parents/carers would find useful.
- TB has checked that the PC is insured for fundraising events.
- The time capsule will be laid under the front entrance stone at an appropriate time in the building schedule.

3. Report from Alison Fotheringham

- New staff include Nigel Cotter, Deputy Head Teacher; Dave McKay, Curriculum Leader of ICT; Luke McKenzie, Curriculum Leader in Support for Learning.
- Further assessment of the recent SQA exam results has identified that the S4 results are improved upon previous year and better than the virtual comparator. S5/6 results fell slightly behind the virtual comparator. School are focussing on areas of under achievement, P7 profiles and cluster school transitions, tracking and monitoring and the broad general education for S1-S3 pupils.
- AF has collated the departmental wishlist and is to forward it to the PC. The items on the wish list have been purchased with funds from the PC and extra from school funds.
- S4/S5 Gallipoli trip went well and positive feedback on pupil's behaviour was received.
- The pupil-organised staff lunch raised £560.90 for Syrian refugees. This amount was matched by Santander.
- The PHS pupil debating club are progressing well in the interschools competition.
- Music and Media Studies subjects combined in an enrichment programme project

AF

for S2 'Absent Friends' which was assisted by S6 pupils and was well received.

4 & 5. Presentation to PC on plans for new school and discussion on how to involve and inform the wider school community (incorporating 5. Progress on new school building)

- Gillian Kennedy, New School Project Manager, presented current building plans and update of progress of the new school building.
- The building of the new school had figured on a recent TV programme 'How Scotland works'.
- Travel to the new school – AA reported on her conversations with Lothian Buses who are agreeable to look further at bus routes for the new school. It was agreed that it would be ideal to have a working group of representatives from CEC, Sustrans, Lothian Buses and PHS to examine the wider issue of transport routes to school, possibly involving Edinburgh College also. JL to investigate whether data from the 'Hands Up Scotland' survey on routes to school is available. It may be useful for the school eco committee to distribute a questionnaire on student and staff modes of transport to school. AA, DM and JL to liaise.

AA, DM, JL

6. Plans to mark move to new building

It was agreed that the Parent Council would work with the school to look at ways of commemorating the old school and celebrating the move to the new. SD and Donna Ballantine to meet with Margaret Williamson, Depute Head Teacher, to progress ideas. It was agreed that a meeting in January to showcase the new school to parents/carers would be a good idea and also to use social media to keep the community informed of ongoing progress. To be discussed further.

SD

7. Fundraising for 2015/16

- EW indicated that she would not be able to continue to lead the fundraising committee, but would organise the school cabaret night. Thanks were conveyed for her tireless fundraising work. A volunteer is needed to lead the fundraising committee although any individually organised projects would be welcomed.
- It was agreed that the 3 main areas of fundraising for 2015/16 would be the cabaret, the fashion show and the commemoration/celebration of the school building. Volunteers are needed to organise the fashion show.

8. Finances

JR, new Treasurer, to liaise with CS.

9. Parent Council plans for next year

- Review school website

10. Possible 'Housekeeping' topics

- How we access parental resources

11. Date of next meeting

30 November 2015

12. Any other business

TB expressed thanks, on behalf of the Parent Council, to Alison Fotheringham for her hard work and the fantastic job she had done as Acting Head Teacher.

