

NOTE OF MEETING

MEETING OF: Portobello High School Parent Council

HELD AT: Portobello High School – Library

DATE: 30 September 2013

TIME: 7:00 pm

PRESENT: Tom Ballantine (Chair), Peigi Macarthur (HT), Verity Sinclair, Cllr Alex Lunn, Liz Meikle, Sue Davidson, Emma Wood, Carole Tracey, Alison Holligan, Hazel Nicolson, Brock Lueck, Donald McGregor, Katherine Taylor, Michael Gibson, John Ballantine, Rowan Simpson
Apologies: Ann O'Hagan, Maureen Child, Christine Swinney, Sean Watters, Tricia Dunn, Gillian Dunn, Michael McTernan, Hazel Bett, Sheila Elliot, Keith Lynch

1. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of meeting on held 2 September 2013 were approved as correct.

2. Update on developments since last meeting

- Information packs have now been sent out.
- £1200 was raised for Asthma UK at recent dress-up day in memory of PHS pupil Kelsey Hogg.
- Pupil/staff participation at blood donation day was high.
- S6 pupils attending Standard Life's tea dance for Portobello pensioners were well received.
- Next year's catchment intake will dip in numbers but is forecast to climb back the following year.

3. Improvement planning

PM presented improvement plan for 2013/14.

4. Progress on new school building

At its meeting on 11 September 2013, the Parliamentary Committee agreed an indicative timetable to consider the Private Bill. MSPs are to visit Portobello Park and Portobello High School grounds on Friday 4 October. AL re-affirmed widespread support in his constituency for the school to be built on the park, evidenced by the large volume of communications to him.

5. Any action to be taken by Parent Council?

PFANS and PPAG have been asked to speak at the next Parliamentary Committee meeting on 9 October and the Parent Council have the opportunity to be represented. All present agreed that TB should address the committee on behalf of the Parent Council, supporting the school build on Portobello Park in line with the previously agreed remit.

6. Fundraising 2013/2014

ACTION

- The fundraising committee will support any individuals/small groups who would like to organise fundraising events. Please contact Emma Wood.
- AH reported that POD (organisers of Portobello Village Fair) are happy to support any PHS initiatives for involvement in future Village Fairs. Ideas to be discussed at later meeting. PM to discuss with staff in the summer term.

7. School Lottery

Discussion took place on ways to promote a higher uptake. EW to supply leaflet to be emailed to parents.

EW

8. Finances

No update.

9. Report on results from last year

PM reported on a pleasing set of results from the 2013 exams. Almost all categories achieved higher pass rates than previous years, continuing the upward trend of the last 7 years. Of particular note was that boys had outperformed girls at S4 exams for the second time only in 9 years. TB, on behalf of the PC, offered congratulations to both pupils and teaching staff on such a good set of results.

10. Housekeeping

- School trip information. The timetable has been finalised and issued. It was agreed that staff should decide a fair system to allocate Raasay and Salou trip places when demand outstrips availability and details would be reported to a future PC meeting.
- Maximising input from wider parent group's work/professional experience. Deferred to next meeting.
- Key adult time – teacher's brief. PM outlined the system and remit of the new form of academic mentorship which is receiving positive feedback from staff and pupils at this early stage.
- 'Summaries' of teachers for S1s. It is hoped that the earlier scheduled S1 parent evenings this year will help to develop the parent/teacher relationship sooner.
- Pupil long term absence. Pupil support leader co-ordinates 2-way flow of work.
- Wifi. Up and running – moved from 8MB to 80MB capacity.
- Glow and Edmodo. Glow was found not to be user-friendly and has been little used; an updated version is soon to be launched. Edmodo, found to be more user-friendly, is still widely in operation, along with use of other social networks outlined at previous meeting.
- Plans to involve children in Referendum debate. Debates will be focussed in Modern Studies lessons for S1, S4 and S5.
- Homework. To be discussed at future meeting.

11. Date of Next Meeting

18 November 2013 at 7pm.

12. AOB

No further discussion.

