

NOTE OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting of: Portobello High School Parent Council

Held at: Portobello High School Library

Date: Monday 6th March 2017

Time: 7pm

Present:

Ruth Mckay, Michael McTernan (Chair), Vicky Gardiner (Secretary), Colin Brown, Kay Hannah, Shelagh Rodger, Jane Marriott, Isabelle McGeehan, Karen Lochiel, Susan McVie, Alison Fotheringham, Tom Ballantine, Marie Swinney, Hazel Bett, Donald McGregor, Joan Mackay, Lynn Myles, Melinda Garvie, Lisa Hardie and Neil Hardie.

Apologies:

Jacquie Robertson (Treasurer), Sandy Macdonald (Vice Chair), Allison Holligan.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

Agreed as a fair and accurate record

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Parent Council Finances

All signatories on the bank account are now correct, this is a major step forward, Thanks to Jacqui for organising it

In response to a request from the Parent Council Ruth outlined options for outdoor seating. The options are limited by the council's suppliers and the need for the furniture to be robust and fireproof. There was a discussion about possible options and suggestions.

4. Parent Council Fundraising

Hazel Bett reported on fundraising.

A fundraising meeting was held last week.

It looks like there will not be another fundraising event this year. The Cabaret looks increasingly unlikely, the proposed date is in June and Marie Campbell and Emma Wood are unavailable.

There was a discussion about other options, such as selling refreshments at school events, a CDT, Art and Craft– exhibition evening – private view – fundraiser. Pupil work from art and craft and design – potential for selling refreshments or students to sell artwork. Other suggestions included asking the students for ideas, perhaps including them on the fundraising committee.

The Parent Council thanked Hazel for her efforts. Parent Council to work with the School to plan events for the next academic year.

Donald McGregor – easy fundraising and will be in the school update next week. Vicky to put on the Facebook page.

5. Introducing Alison Fotheringham – Deputy Head Teacher,

Alison has been at the school for 10 years, two of her key areas have been developing the key adult system and promoting positive behaviour. Key elements of her introduction were:

- How the school works with partner agencies to help provide pastoral care for the children in the school.
- Working on the transition from P7 to S1.
- Reviewing the way that the Key Adult system is working and how staff are being engaged in the process. The move to Key Adults is cultural change for teaching staff as this type of support was introduced as CFE.
- Description of how the move to the new school has changed the way that pupils behave, and made some pupil behaviour more apparent as the new school is more open.

6. Head Teachers Report

School Inspection

The School is to be inspected just before Easter. This will involve Staff, Parents and Parent Council. The schools looking for parent volunteers for focus groups.

The week of the inspection is busy in school with the Spring Concert, the P7 transition, supported transition group for head start and extra curricular clubs.

Through out the week the Inspectors will dip in and out of classes without any notice. They will speak to youngsters look at iPads, and jotters.

The Inspection report is very brief. As an example Larbert High School has just received an inspection and the report is on their website.

The Schools survey organised by Kirkland Rowel has received a positive response in terms of numbers who participated.

News Scottish government pupil equity funding

The Scottish Government is providing £1200 per pupil registered for free school meals in S1 to S3. PHS will receive £66k and there was a discussion about how the money is to be used. The money must be spent reducing the equity gap for “deprived pupils”. Figures used by the government were 2014 figures so if current figures were used PHS would get £78K. Head teachers have fed back and government to review how they gather to data in the future.

Suspended timetable

Mrs Williamson is working on the Suspended timetable.

Surprisingly this year the residential trip to Raasay will not go ahead due to lack of take-up. There was a discussion about how the trips were advertised and whether parents were informed. There

was also a discussion about how the system of advertising and filling trips could be made more inclusive.

Due to a lack of staff involvement there are fewer non-residential elements to the timetable. There was a request for the school to make the timetable available.

Could parents get involved to help out with ratios to allow trips to occur? Ruth to take this idea back to the organisers.

Parent Pay System Trial.

System to enable parents to pay for trips and costs remotely via a website. It has become apparent that there is a transaction of 1.3% on every transaction. Eg If a trip is £100 then £1.30 transaction cost. If PHS adopts this system then the school will need to come up with a way to manage the costs as it cannot pick up this cost.

Staffing

Jenny Summerling Head of music has had an operation this week and will be off long term. Process of re-advertising for acting Curriculum Lead in Music. PC wish Jenny Well.

New School

Out of hours and holiday – window smashed and outer pane shattered by a large rock. The sports pitches have been damaged and the nets cut.

Community

Issues have arisen with the neighbours on Park Avenue. The school is working to deal with these concerns.

Traffic

Pupil path into the school and the car park entrance cross each other with no marking or signage. There are no signs in the car park. The combination of these two things are an accident waiting to happen. PC to contact Maureen Childs to get something done about this. Michael to gain direction from MC.

Curriculum Review

Organise a discussion about the curriculum review at the next Parent Council Meeting.

AOB

Susan mentioned that the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) careers convention was at the museum. PHS didn't attend this year, recommend that we do attend next year. Parents volunteered to help out.

PHS to organise an evening to celebrate the people in community and parent council who helped to get the new school built. The Parent Council is looking for the names and email addresses of people who helped get the school built who should attend.