

QAHS Parent Council – Minutes of 18 January 2017



Present

Derek Twaddle, Gillian Holland, Ruth McFarlane,
Graham Henderson, Angela Malcolm, Kevin Mitchell,
Tracey Frain, Steven Frain, David Waterworth, Sheila Shedden,
Helen Gilroy, Jacqueline Sharp, Gary Anderson
Linda Panton, Sarah Medley, Jen La Trobe, Jan Johnson
Cllr David Mogg

Apologies

Pamela Davie, Derek Scott, Linda Noble, Cllr Helen Law

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The previous minutes of 28 September 2016 were agreed.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

“Our Families Matter- Parental Involvement in Fife”- Draft Strategy for Consultation

No comments received on the above.

Available on the school website for comments, and further meetings to be held.

Parent Council can pass on comments if required. Contact us on email below.

Draft Anti- Bullying Policy

See Rectors report below

Volunteer Rota for Parents Nights/ Events

Please email the Secretary on email below if you are available to volunteer at any forthcoming Parents Nights;

Tuesday 28th February- S1

Thursday 27th April- S3

The Chair to produce an info sheet on the Parent Council to hand out to parents/ carers.

A suggestion box was muted with issues being brought up at future meetings- to be discussed further.

Parent Council Communication- Facebook etc

The Facebook page is now operational. No comments can be made on the page and the page will refer readers to the school website for more detailed info.

It was agreed the Parent Council is the parent/ carer link to the school and should be used to increase parental involvement with the school.

It was suggested the Chair should look at other Parent Council websites/ Facebook pages to see how they operate.

It was also conformed Twitter would not be used as too time consuming for Parent Council members to maintain.

The launch of the Parent Council Facebook page to be included in the next E- bulletin.

The Parent Council Section of the school website requires to be updated- Secretary's name changed and also minutes of previous meetings added.

Parent Council Fund Allocation

The Rector to ask depts. to bid for the funds available through the Parent Council for the next meeting on Wednesday 19th April

The Rector to confirm the exact amount available.

A request was made that some of the money be used to fund anti-bullying posters, which could be designed by the pupils.

Treasurer's Report

The Secretary has contacted the Bank of Scotland and the PTA account is now closed.

Rector's Report

The Rector reported that the Christmas Market had been a great success, well attended, with a super atmosphere and a very good response from all involved and attending.

There has been a 3 year extension to the British Council International Awards and QA continued to enjoy its global connections.

Staffing continued to be an issue in Modern Languages where a probationer had unexpectedly left and in Physics due to the ill health of a member of staff.

Timetables had been rearranged as required to fill any gaps and where appropriate the post has been advertised.

Over the Christmas break a fire had broken out in the Conference Room. A dishwasher in the adjacent kitchen area was the cause.

There were no injuries and no significant damage but all will need to be replaced. However it did knock out 10 hubs in the CDT dept. Alternative arrangements have been made until all is fixed.

The change of times for the Senior Phase Parent Evenings was acknowledged by those present as workable, however the appointment timesheets were given out too close to the first Parents Evening with some children unable to plan appointments.

The Rector stated the Parents Evenings were to be moved forward 2 weeks to allow more time for the appointments to be made.

An anti-bullying policy based on a Fife council template is being issued to all staff at the in-service day in February.

This policy will be uploaded to the website and include a support sheet for parents. It was agreed a summary sheet would be most useful for parents.

The policy will make staff more aware of the process to follow and that they are legally obliged to record any instances of bullying.

The Rector cited a number of websites and organisations available to both pupils and parents/carers that focus on all aspects of bullying and offer support and advice.

The largest form of bullying with the greatest workload for Guidance teachers at present is cyber bullying.

The Rector informed all that unfortunately the 2x fully funded Penumbra coaches had been lost at the beginning of the year.

However a Pupil Premium payment of £1200 per pupil on school free meals was being made available which could possibly be used to reinstate a Penumbra coach or similar.

Parents were outraged at the loss of this resource and Councillor Mogg suggested the Chair of the Parent Council should write to the leader of Fife Council and the Executive Director of Fife Education expressing our concerns.

The Rector did reiterate the school did have other resources available to pupils requiring assistance in all areas.

Councillor's Report

Nothing to report.

Councillor Mogg did state he is happy to be emailed issues/ concerns prior to Parent Council meetings in order that he may attend with the relevant info/ solutions.

AOCB

School trip policy has been re-written given longer notice of trips available and payment plans.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 19 April 2017 at 7pm.

Email address: qahsparentcouncil@gmail.com

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/qahspc