



QAHS Parent Council – Minutes of 19th April 2017

Present

Derek Twaddle, Gillian Holland, Ruth McFarlane, Pamela Davie, Graham Henderson, Angela Malcolm, Kevin Mitchell, Tracey Frain, Steven Frain, Sheila Shedden, Kelvin Thomson, Helen Gilroy, Jacqueline Sharp, Linda Panton, Sarah Medley, Jen La Trobe, Jan Johnson, Derek Scott, Jan Lawrence, Karen Hopkins, Michelle Wallace, Alison Lowrie, Andy Cameron, Cllr Willie Campbell, Cllr Helen Law

Apologies

David Waterworth, Gary Anderson, Linda Noble,

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The previous minutes of 18 January 2017 were agreed.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Junior and Senior Team Phase Leaders

Lots of constructive feedback was received from pupils and parents/carers around the proposal to change the names of Head Boy/Head Girl to School Captains. This rationale for this was to respond to the equality agenda and pupil voice by making the names of these roles non-gender specific. The title “School Captain” has been the most popular suggestion but further suggestions are still welcome.

There was high level discussion on this issue with positive contributions from parents.

The Senior Phase Pupil Leadership Team structure will consist of 2 “School Captains” (to share responsibility) and a team of Senior Phase pupils (S4 - S6).

The Junior Phase Pupil Leadership Team would adopt the same structure as the Senior Phase with two Junior Phase School Captains. This would enable a wider range of leadership opportunities for more pupils across all year groups.

The PC approved this proposal.

Dates for next Sessions Parent Council Meetings

Monday 25th September 2017

Tuesday 16th January 2018

Wednesday 18th April 2018

Wednesday 6th June 2018

Nominations for Parent Council

Treasurer’s post to be removed as this role no longer required.

It is proposed a Vice Chair or a number of Vice Chairs be elected to aid the Chair in future. The current Constitution to be checked and amended if possible.

This smaller group to meet with the Senior Leadership Team out-with the PC meetings to discuss strategic school issues, bringing items to the PC as required. Special meetings of the PC would still be called as required.

Nominations are required for the next session please contact the Chair or Secretary if interested.

Parent Council Fund Allocation

A number of bids were received for the funds.

It was decided to distribute the funds among all bids proportionately as per each request.

Allocations as follows:

Home Economics Chefs Club- £100.00

Art and Design BGE Lunch Club- £100.00

School Production of Hairspray for radio microphones- £250.00

Duke of Edinburgh's Award- £250.00

CDT Creative Craft Club- £100.00

The remaining £50 to be used to fund the printing/ laminating of Anti-bullying posters

Treasurer's Report

To be removed from future agendas

Rector's Report

See over

Councillor's Report

Cllr Helen Law stated she is confident Fife Council will support the innovative ideas being proposed for the Pupil Equity Fund and take these forward in the future.

The Council has been very impressed with QAs continual high levels of attainment including the CAOL project which proved a great success and was funded by Area Committee.

She is hopeful young people will be encouraged along to Area Committee meetings in future to add their views. If re-elected she will hope to be involved with this.

Cllr Willie Campbell is not seeking re-election and stated he had very much enjoyed attending the PC meetings at QA in the last 5 years.

The PC wish to thank him and wish him well.

AOCB

The issue of staff levels and permanent/ temporary teachers was raised.

The Rector stated there is a national shortage of teachers but QA has not been affected and is able to recruit high quality staff.

However teachers are only human and illness and accidents happen.

In such cases these positions are managed as effectively as possible and the utmost is done to provide the best cover.

A small minority may not be subject specialists but a rota would be used in these instances.

Any concerns from parents however should be brought to the attention of Guidance/Principal teachers.

Date of Next Meeting and AGM

The next meeting and AGM is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 7 June 2017 at 7pm.

Email address: qahsparentcouncil@gmail.com

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/qahspc

Rectors Report

CAOL Project: Very well attended and good feedback from both staff and pupils. Feedback is currently being collated and will be evaluated. The next steps will be to track the impact on attainment post-exams. Many thanks to Graham Henderson for organising and all staff who participated.

SQA Examination Diet: Several meetings have already taken place with the Business Manager and the Invigilation Team to prepare for the examinations and associated Additional Assessment Arrangements required. A letter has been placed on the website (with associated groupcall text) to all parents/carers of Senior Phase pupils regarding arrangements for pupils.

Staffing: Jonny Main (PT Guidance) secured the acting Depute Rector Post to cover Laura Martins maternity leave. Interviews for the acting PT Guidance are on Friday. Pam Davie will take over year group responsibility for S4 & S5. Douglas Sinclair will take on year group responsibility for S2 and Jonny Main for S3. Pupils will start to be informed at assemblies next week.

'Listening Tour': Tomorrow Carrie Lindsay the new Director of Education and Children's Services and Councillor Bryan Poole will visit QAHS to meet with SLT, groups of pupils and staff as part of the 'listening tour' of Fife schools and early years providers.

Pupil Equity Funding: SLT have met with an external provider to plan for a weekly pupil input from August through to mid-February. This is still in draft form but will:

- target one period with S5 & one period with S6 each week. The content will cover topics including: managing anxiety, mindfulness, organisational skills, interpersonal skills, employability alongside motivational humour. A parent information session is planned to inform parents and carers of the content and rationale behind this programme.
- A targeted group of Junior Phase pupils will work more intensively in a small group setting for a half day each week focussing on building confidence, personal responsibility and employability skills. This will largely be driven via assertive mentoring and coaching. This group will also be linked to a parent input along with the pupils at the end of the school day.
- It is also hoped to involve sessions for staff training on body language, communication and de-escalation linked with pupils with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD).

We are also currently exploring a range of ways to better support mental health by linking with trained specialists and hope to be able to secure at least one specialist to work individually or in small groups based on referrals from Guidance PTs. We would also like to have some form of pupil drop-in facility.

