



QAHS Parent Council – Minutes of 9 June 2016

Present

Derek Twaddle, Kevin Mitchell, Ruth McFarlane, Gillian Holland, Jackie Campbell, Sarah Ellis, Linda Noble, David Waterworth, Mr Billingham, Tracey Frain, Steven Frain, Stephanie Harris, Beverley Reid, Sheila Shedden, Patricia Mitchell, Jan Johnson, Cllr Helen Law and Gary Anderson.

Apologies

Andy Cameron, Duncan Durie, Jen La Trobe, Mandy Vipond, Alison Lowrie, Kathryn McSkimming, , Linda Panton, Angela Malcolm, Ingrid Glendinning, Cllr William Campbell and Cllr David Mogg.

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting with a special welcome to a number of first time QAHS Parent Council attendees.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The previous Minutes of 28 June 2016 were agreed.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Treasurer's Report

The Chairman reminded the members present that the Parent Council had received it's 2016—17 allocation and reconfirmed that due to budget cuts within the school – the Parent Council agreed to hold the allocation meantime – for possible Principal Teacher bids for these resources at a later meeting.

Rector's Report

The Rector reported that the 'QAHS Positive Destination Data' had been released to the school but as of yet had not been sanctioned for public communication. When looking at the data she could confirm that QAHS had achieved the highest percentage in Fife for pupils going to University / College or work and sustaining those places.

Following the discussion in the previous meeting regarding S5/6 leaver pupil behaviour on their last day, it was confirmed that the school fire alarm had been activated a number of times during this time; once prior to the last day, four times on the last day and one additional time during the Exam period. The Rector confirmed that as QAHS was a large school, with over 1500 pupils, the Fire Brigade were obliged to attend the school after each fire alarm activation and that if these were found to be false alarms then there was a charge for each visit of £600. Given the strict budget control in place across the school that these costs may impact on other expenditure across the school. To help limit false fire alarm activations protective

covers for all alarm points were to be added (the school has 100 fire alarm activation points), with additional CCTV cameras (to cover alarm points) being investigated at a cost of £65k. It was also noted that if any person was caught falsely activating a fire alarm that they could be charged and end up with a criminal conviction on their police record.

The Rector then noted that the SQA Exam Diet for S4, S5 & S6 pupils had completed successfully and that the school was very hopeful for a good set of results when released later during the Summer holidays.

It was noted that the new structure for the school day had been in operation since the start of the Summer session and had so far gone well. It was also noted that there were a number of interim bus arrangements in place for the days when QAHS day finished early and that Fife Council and the Bus operators were hopeful that these would be rectified in time for when the school reopened after the Summer holidays.

An update was then given on the new entry / exit point arrangements that had been introduced and in particular the joint S1/S6 entry / exit point that had resulted in some issues being raised by S6 pupils. A number of parents then raised concerns that had been raised by their children regarding these new 'crush' arrangements and the impact they were having. The Rector reminded the group as to why the changes had been introduced and the decision progress that been undertaken. She finished by asking for patience from both pupils and parents, as the new arrangements were gotten used to by all concerned.

Councillor's Report

Councillor Law had no specific points to raise.

AOCB

The dates for next year's Parent Council meetings were discussed and it was agreed that the meetings would move to a Wednesday evening, starting at 7pm.

The proposed dates were:

- 28 September
- 18 January
- 19 April
- 7 June (including AGM)

The Rector noted that the 'P7 Parent Introduction Evening to S1' was planned for Tuesday, 14 June and that there was normally a slot for the Parent Council to be introduced. The Chairman agreed to attend and update the parents on the Parent Council and invite them to attend and support the work of the school.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 28 September 2016 at 7pm.