



QAHS Parent Council – Minutes of 28 September 2016

Present

Derek Twaddle, Gillian Holland, Ruth McFarlane,
Pamela Davie, Graham Henderson, Angela Malcolm ,
Peter Wright, Jane Baxter, Lynn Morgan-Hill,
Kevin Mitchell, Alison Lowrie, Tracey Frain
Louise Whyte, Beverley Reid, Sarah Ellis
Linda Noble, Karen Hopkins, David Waterworth, Sheila Shedden,
Jaqueline Leighton, Mikaela Radu, Helen Gilroy, Jacqueline Sharp,
Kelvin Thomson, Derek Scott, Ingrid Glendinning, Sarah Medley, Christina Bruce.,
Mary Kinninmonth, carolyne Mchale, Adele Vrabie and Marius Vrabie

Apologies

Andy Cameron, Gary Anderson, Duncan Durie, Jen La Trobe, Kathryn McSkimming,
Linda Panton, Cllr Helen Law, 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. The Chairman informed all that Gillian Holland had taken over the role of Secretary.

The Secretary apologised that not all had received the minutes due to the changeover and a problem with some of the email addresses given. This would be rectified in future.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The previous minutes of 9 June 2016 were agreed.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

New School Website Design

Graham Henderson gave a presentation and update on the new website design that is still under progress.

A Parent Council section is to be included on the website where all minutes/agendas etc can be posted. Mr Henderson is happy to work with the Parent Council to develop this further. Please contact the Chair or Secretary with any ideas or proposals.

The Daily Newsletter will appear on the website after the October holidays.

Update on Bus Situation

Peter Wright (Education Officer linking with Fife Transportation on behalf of the Education Authority) kindly attended the meeting having previously met with the Rector and the Chair on 1st September 2016, he outlined the problems with the timetables for the 3 affected buses - Kingseat, Townhill and Crossford.

He updated The Parent Council that the Townhill bus would be resolved as of 24 October 2016.

The other buses were linked with other contracts but would endeavour to speed up negotiations. The Chair asked him to report to the Rector and Parent Council before the school broke up for the October holidays on the outcome of the negotiations. Jane Baxter (on behalf of Alex Rowley) reported that Alex had been in touch with Head of Education since the start of the new term and she would ask him to contact the Chief Executive to resolve this issue ASAP.

The Rector was confident a solution would be reached by early next week and all parents/carers would be informed by Groupcall. If no solution was reached further action including a possible public meeting would be taken after the October holidays. The Rector reiterated that the school had made facilities available after school for children and if children chose to stay in school they were safe. Peter Wright agreed to report back prior to the October holidays.

School Communication

The Chair raised a query from a parent regarding communications from the school after an inability to access information on the website.

Due to the website being virally cleansed and still in development stages the Rector was sending out an E bulletin every Friday.

Other forms of communication used continued to be Groupcall, newsletters, school bag mail and after the October holidays a daily newsletter on the website.

It was confirmed the school App was outdated and no longer used.

A data capture form is being sent out next week with a request for all email addresses/ mobile number to be updated.

Kevin Mitchell asked why the school doesn't make more use of the Dunfermline press for updating parents/carers.

The Rector emphasised the website would be the main font of knowledge and it was agreed the press could be used to advise on the new website and its content.

A request was made for the school to use social media as a means of providing information to parents, this was declined.

However the Chair agreed to look at Facebook as an option for communicating info from the Parent Council. The policy of no comments just postings would be adopted. Derek Twaddle to investigate with Kelvin Thomson and Graeme Henderson.

The Chair informed all of the Parent Council billboard located in reception and that volunteers would be needed for forthcoming parents' nights/events to man this billboard and "advertise" the Parent Council.

Please email names to Gillian Holland if you wish to volunteer. Email address at bottom of page. The secretary will provide a rota.

Treasurer's Report

The Chairman stated there was no requirement for a Treasurer.

The Rector agreed to ask depts. to bid for the funds available through the Parent council before the next meeting in January 2016.

The secretary will add to the agenda the selection of these bids.

The Rector to confirm the exact amount available.

The Secretary agreed to contact the Bank of Scotland to close the PTA account which now has a zero balance.

Rector's Report

School Quality Improvement Plan to be issued next week via website and Groupcall. This will also be presented at the Area Committee next week. A number of local councillors do support the school very well which means issues like the bus problem can be highlighted through them.

Entry/Exit points have seen a reduction in issues and a great improvement in general order. Very positive comments have been received from all concourse areas with regard to litter and cleanliness. S6 took over an empty space and have been commended on its upkeep.

The whole ethos and culture of these areas has changed, they are now welcoming spaces.

The school has set up a Pupil Universal Fund to ensure equality and equity, giving all pupils the same opportunities.

A dinner at The Garvock run by staff raised £11,000 for this fund. This fund raising dinner will be held every 2 years.

There is potential for the Parent Council to run a fundraising event in the intervening year. To be discussed further.

John James, Motivational Speaker, spoke to all QAHS staff and primary cluster staff. He focused on the values of Education. This information is being relayed back to S5/6 who have also been asked to nominate speakers they would like to hear.

Councillor's Report

No Councillors in attendance.

AOCB

Supply Teachers

A concern was raised regarding replacement teachers for an absent Maths Teacher. The Rector confirmed the school was aware and covering adequately, and that the Maths dept had reassured her they were delivering fully on the curriculum. There is however a shortage of maths teachers in Fife.

Any concerns parents have should be raised with the child's guidance teacher.

School Trips

The issue of not having enough time to pay for trips was raised. The Rector advised where possible long timescales were given but some trips did arise at short notice.

Additionally it was requested to add regular annual trips to the school calendar.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 18 January 2017 at 7pm.

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