



## CHARLESTON ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

### Minutes of Parent Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at Charleston Academy

**Present:** Fiona Alexander, Robert Bowie, Lyndie Cameron, Ciara Flügel, David Gillies, Leona Hayes, Yvette Hogan, Urszula Kozak, Rona MacAskill, Rona Macpherson, Fiona Malcolm, Kate Morris (Chair), Andrea Paterson, Julie Riddle, Gordon Stewart

**In Attendance:** Chris O'Neill (Rector), Margret MacRae (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Linda McLean, Katrina Morrison, Lindsey Stout

1.	<b><u>WELCOME</u></b> Kate Morris welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2.	<b><u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u></b> The minute of the meeting held on 20 <sup>th</sup> January was approved. Proposed: Urszula Kozak Seconded: Robert Bowie
3.	<b><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></b> Kate Morris and Sue Fraser attended the cooking demonstrations arranged by RoWAN with a focus on 'Cooking to Save Money and Waste'. This event was very much enjoyed. It was reported that RoWAN hope to be able to undertake some work in conjunction with the school in the future. Initial ideas are to deliver some sessions to senior pupils in order to increase life skills prior to pupils going off to university.
4.	<b><u>RECTOR'S REPORT</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Mr O'Neill reported that a meeting for parents whose children are involved in the Botswana International Connecting Classrooms Exchange had now taken place. It is anticipated that 30 pupils will be going to Botswana next year. Sixteen pupils and staff from Lotsane Secondary School in Palapye, Botswana will begin their 2 week visit to Inverness next week. A number of visits and excursions to tourist attractions have been arranged in addition to the Civic Reception which will be held at the Town House. For most of the time the students from Lotsane will be accompanying their host students to classes at Charleston Academy. An invitation has also been received from the Inverness High School who are very interested in the exchange work being undertaken by Charleston Academy. This will also enable the students from Botswana to experience a different learning environment.</li><li>○ The official opening of the Albert Roux Kitchen has now taken place. The school continues to build up partnerships within the hospitality industry and is working on a new young apprentice programme. In addition pupils from other secondary schools in the area are expected to take part in the hospitality programme being delivered by Charleston Academy.</li><li>○ The boxing club continues to be very successful and funding has now been secured to ensure that this can be provided for the next few years. The youngsters are progressing well and positive feedback has been received from the police who are partners to the boxing programme. Charleston Academy will now pilot a further Police Scotland initiative. Approximately 20 places will be available for pupils in S3 – S6 to take part in a cadet style scheme. The scheme is targeted at pupils with an interest in joining the police force or where it was felt that the focus of the activities would be of benefit to individuals.</li><li>○ Mr O'Neill advised that the final of the Procurator Fiscal's Speaking Competition was held at Charleston Academy earlier this month. Both the winners and runners-up were students from Charleston Academy and Mr O'Neill commended both the pupils and staff for this achievement. Staff were thanked for their commitment to the Debating / Public Speaking Club which created opportunities for the school's pupils. Students took part in a recent debate in Nairn, and also had excellent results at the Inverness Music Festival for prose reading and poetry recitals.</li><li>○ The Charleston Science Club also achieved success where, at a Celebration of Science Event held at Eden Court, it was awarded Science Club of the Year for the North of Scotland. It will now be put forward for the Scottish Final to be held later in the year. The Science Club is run each Wednesday lunchtime by Mrs Pam Hamilton, Science Technician, in conjunction with the S6</li></ul>



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	<p>Science Prefects. This initiative is part of the schools STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) project and aims to inspire pupils and promote science across the school. Work they have undertaken includes the delivery of a roadshow to S1 pupils.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An American Football Team has been formed at Charleston Academy, and this new team has already had some excellent results. It was reported that Charleston Knights reached the final of the Highland Academy Community League, in this, their first season. Although they suffered a heavy defeat, it was noted that their opponents, High School Predators are the strongest and longest established team in the league.</li> <li>○ Mr O'Neill advised that £1250 had been raised by pupils and staff for Comic Relief. Senior pupils took an active role in arranging fundraising activities which included a dress-down day, baking sale, head shave and tug-o-war. Thank you also to Ms Carmichael and Miss Massey for assisting with the co-ordination of the events.</li> <li>○ A Parent Information Evening was held for parents of current Primary 7 pupils. This was very well attended and the information provided was well received.</li> <li>○ Curricular information evenings were also held for parents of S2 pupils and a separate session for parents of pupils in S3 – S5.</li> <li>○ Anne Cripps, librarian at the school, will be retiring at the end of this session. Highlife Highland has advised that Mrs Cripps' post will be replaced by an Assistant Librarian who will be contracted to 35 hours per week during term time.</li> <li>○ Staffing. Mrs Stewart, PT Music is currently on long-term sick leave. In addition Ms Darroch, Maths is also absent from school for the foreseeable future. Mr O'Neill is satisfied that Maths has been adequately covered by re-jigging current staffing arrangements within the department.</li> <li>○ The school has requested that zig-zags to prevent parking are painted at Charleston View and that 'no waiting' signs are erected at the bus turning circle. Kate Morris will contact the transport representative at the Highland Council to request that action is taken in order to try and prevent an accident occurring.</li> <li>○ Highlife Highland is currently re-considering the model for the Active Schools Co-ordinator role following Ami Warren's resignation. Ami is currently undertaking some work with pupils on a voluntary basis, and Dagmar Borrowan is also covering some aspects of the role. It is anticipated that further information on the potential new format will be known in the next financial year.</li> </ul>
7.	<p><b><u>FINANCE</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>FINANCE REPORT.</b> It was reported that the current bank balance is £4051.43. Income of £16.59 was generated through Easyfundraising. Expenditure, including funding awards agreed at the previous Parent Council meeting totalled £830.</li> <li>○ Two new funding bids were received and circulated at the meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ £300 was being sought for a cross-curricular experience to research, design, build and launch a weather balloon into near space and gather atmospheric data. The school already has the basic equipment but funding is required to expand the capabilities of the technology and provide pupils with a more hands-on experience. The bid was approved by the Parent Council.</li> <li>○ £250 was being sought to support the newly established Charleston Academy Chinese Club. This extra-curricular club promotes both language learning and cultural awareness. Funding is required to purchase materials and allow the involvement of a Mandarin and Chinese culture teacher. The bid was approved by the Parent Council.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
8.	<p><b><u>CORRESPONDENCE</u></b> No correspondence has been received.</p>
9.	<p><b><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It was previously agreed to provide a staff lunch for all teaching and support staff at the inset day in June. This is to thank staff for all the work they undertake which is over and above</li> </ul>



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	<p>their remit and includes provision of extra-curricular activities, revision classes, additional cleaning for Parents Evenings / events and all the other things that go on behind the scenes which are so often not acknowledged. Helen Hunter has agreed to be the school contact and will assist with providing details in relation to staff numbers and other information. It was agreed that the Parent Council would contact Helen Hunter after the Easter break.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ It was clarified that the Highland Council is responsible for gritting the road at the side of the school and also the turning circle. The school's facilities maintenance team is responsible for treating the car park and paths around the school during adverse weather. It was acknowledged that the road has not always been treated before the beginning of the school day.</li></ul>
10.	<p><b><u>DATES OF NEXT MEETING – 7pm on:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015</li><li>○ Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2015</li></ul>