



CHARLESTON ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of Parent Council Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 27th September 2016

Present: Kate Morris, Chair; Sue Fraser; Katrina Morrison; Phil Clark; David Crookes; Helen Hunter, Depute; Rona Macpherson, Depute; Fiona Alexander; Julie Riddle; Ciara Flugel; Rona MacAskill; Lindsey Stout; Jill Kent; Grant Franklin; Andrea Paterson

In Attendance: Chris O'Neill, Rector; Maureen Gallie, clerk; Anne Gillies, guest speaker

Apologies: Fiona Malcolm; Annetta Crookes; David Gillies; Lyndie Cameron, Teachers rep.

1.	<p><u>WELCOME</u> Kate welcomed everyone to the AGM, in particular Anne Gilles. She thanked everyone for their involvement in Parent Council and introduced Chris O'Neill as rector and Helen Hunter and Rona Macpherson as Deputes.</p>
2.	<p><u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u> Proposed: Seconded:</p>
3.	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING</u> None</p>
4.	<p><u>Finance Report</u> Kate introduced Ciara as the new treasurer and expressed her thanks to the outgoing treasurer. The last bank statement in August showed a balance of £2688.00</p> <p>Funding is received from the Highland Council (approximately £500 per annum) and the rest is from fundraising by the parent council. All monies raised are ploughed back to the school by various means.</p> <p>The independent auditor will continue as in previous years.</p>
5.	<p><u>Parent Council Annual Report</u> Kate described the main roles of the parent council as supporting the school by fundraising and also by taking part in discussions both at meetings and forums within the council. The 7th annual S1 Art Exhibition organised by the parent council will take place later in the year. This is a fun annual event run in partnership with the Art Department. It is great opportunity for S1 parents to be involved with the school. Art and craft stalls are available for £10 (anyone interested should contact either Kate or Maureen). Mr O'Neill said that as the exhibition is after the S1 parent evening flyers could be prepared to be given to S1 parents at parents evening to increase interest in the event. Kate praised the Art Department for their help and enthusiasm with the exhibition. Monies raised is usually given back to the art department by way of funding e.g. photographic equipment. Anyone willing to help with this event should contact Kate. A get together to discuss the exhibition will be held at Ciara's house on 25th October. A staff appreciation lunch was held again this year. It is a way for the Parent Council to thank the staff for all the extra-curricular work they provide for the pupils, including sports/clubs/revision classes. All staff in the school are invited to the lunch. Kate advised that she is a member of the Highland Parent Council Partnership, which represents all the schools across the Highlands. They have regular meeting with Jim Stevens to discuss, among other things, budget cuts.</p>



CHARLESTON ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

	<p>The parent council have been involved in discussions this year on all subjects affecting the school including the introduction of the 4.5 day week, the reduction in the number of National 5's sat by S4 pupils, budget cuts and staffing.</p> <p>Funding support has been given to Higher photography - £250 for the purchase of equipment. The Basketball Club – shared funding with the school fund for £300. Climbing club - £200 for tablets to record and improve on climbing techniques.</p>
6.	<p><u>Rector's Report</u></p> <p>Mr O'Neill began by thanking those present for coming and expressed his appreciation for the high turnout.</p> <p>Although it has only been a month since the last meeting there has been a lot going on at the school. The Youth Philanthropy Initiative visited the school as part of the third year RMPS studies. It was a very successful afternoon and Charleston is at the forefront of this initiative within schools. More details of this are on the schools website.</p> <p>The Home Economic department have had an exceptionally busy time recently. They provided an excellent lunch for the town twinning committee. Feeding over 30 people including local councillors and the delegation from Oxburg, Barvaria. The food was prepared and served by hospitality students assisted by chefs from Inverness College. The feedback was excellent with the visitors stating that the food was of the standard expected in top restaurants. The deputy provost was 'blown away' by the quality of the food and the demeanour of the pupils involved.</p> <p>Two days later the Albert Roux Dinner was served. At only £20 a head for the excellent 3 course meal supervised by Albert Roux the evening was not only exceptional for the quality of the food but for the value. The money raised is usually given to a charity chosen by Albert Roux but this year the school was to choose the recipient charity. As the YPI had been in the school and this initiative gives £3000 from the Wood Family Trust to a chosen charity each year the decision was made to give the proceeds of the dinner on to this. Full details of the chosen charity will be known in December following the judging process. More details are available on the school website.</p> <p>These 2 hugely successful evening are a credit to the Home Economic department and greatly enhance the stature of the Albert Roux kitchen.</p> <p>In addition to all this the department have also been involved in running the Rotary Junior Masterchef competition in their own time.</p> <p>The Lead Prefect Weekend took place recently at Badaguish. 14 lead prefects took part in a very enjoyable weekend run by Mairi Sutherland. Both Helen Hunter and Rona Macpherson also took part in the weekends activities. The weekend allows the pupils to develop their leadership skills and to challenge them to improve as lead prefects throughout the year.</p> <p>It was great to be back at Badaguish where the accommodation is excellent and very conducive to the ethos of the weekend.</p> <p>The school again held its sponsored walk to Dochgarroch last week. The weather was superb and there was a great turn out of pupils in fancy dress. This is the main fundraising activity for the school and usually raises around £10k. The final figure for this year is not yet known as money is still coming in from pupils. Over the school year around £18,000 is raised by the school with about £8000 going to charities. Of the monies raised by the sponsored walk approximately £4-5k is used to fund the schools own minibus. The minibus is available to all departments and is heavily used with 8 staff being able to drive it.</p> <p>There is currently a drive on literacy within the school, led by the English department and involving all the Primary schools in our catchment area. Staff are looking at how to moderate levels attained by</p>



CHARLESTON ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

	<p>pupils and agreeing levels across schools and transition. They will develop shared lessons and observe teaching across schools.</p> <p>Mr O'Neill attended the Scottish Learning Festival last week. He was part of a volunteer delegation from Highland who were there to promote the Highlands as a great place to teach. He was disappointed not to get the corporate backing of Highland Council. He, and the other Highland delegates has to produce their own flyers, banners etc. Other regions, in particular from the Central Belt, had freebies to give out and very obvious corporate backing. Aberdeenshire were offering rent subsidies to entice teachers to their region. Mr O'Neill stated that it was embarrassing to see what other regions were doing to attract high quality teachers in comparison to Highland Regions efforts. There are a great many teaching vacancies across Highland region at the current time and schools are struggling to recruit staff. Mr O'Neill urged the parent council to take this on and to bring it to the fore.</p> <p>John Swinneys recent announcement regarding the exam process was unexpected. While it was expected that there would be some change due to the extra commitment required by teaching staff in the assessment requirements, the withdrawal of some unit assessment was a surprise. Final exams are to be enhanced and this will replicate the unit assessments. Mr O'Neill assured the Parent Council that he would be keeping a close eye on developments and hopes that schools will be involved in working with the government to ensure that they get the details right with this welcome change.</p> <p>Mr O'Neill has recently been at a meeting with Jim Stevens, along with the other 4 Inverness secondary head teachers, to discuss the Highland Council's plan to begin to unify the school day across the region. The council plan to unify the start and finish time across school with the times of subjects in individual columns being the same. This should allow schools greater flexibility to allow further access via the 'virtual schools' mechanism.</p> <p>Peter Finlayson has been appointed as the new head of virtual learning and should take up his post soon.</p> <p>The new timetable has been working well in Charleston and other schools are likely to align their times with us from either June or August 2017.</p> <p>Further details on virtual learning e.g. supervision of pupils etc. will follow once Peter has taken up his new role.</p>
7.	<p><u>New Parent Council members and appointment of office bearers</u></p> <p>Kate was re-elected as Chair Fiona Alexander was duly elected as secretary Ciara Flugel was confirmed as treasurer</p>
9.	<p><u>Dates of future meeting</u> To be confirmed</p>