



CHARLESTON ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th November 2016

Present: Lyndie Cameron, Teacher's Rep; Rona MacPherson, Depute; Gordon Stewart, Depute; Kate Morris, Chair; Julie Riddle; Kartina Morrison; Andrea Paterson; Victoria Franklin; Annetta Crookes.

In Attendance: Chris O'Neill, Rector; Maureen Gallie, clerk.

Apologies: Fiona Malcolm; Ciara Flugel; Grant Franklin; Rona MacAskill.

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| 1. | <u>WELCOME</u> Kate welcomed everyone to the meeting which started at 7pm. |
| 2. | <u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u> Proposed: Julie Riddle Seconded: Andrea Paterson |
| 3. | <u>MATTERS ARISING</u> none |
| 4. | <u>Rector's Report</u> Mr O'Neill advised that the school had raised £9000 on the recent sponsored walk. Although slightly less than is usual, in the current economic climate this is still an excellent amount. The school has enjoyed great success recently with Jemimah Morris and Katie Stark making it through to the final in the North Schools Debating Championships. The final will take place in Charleston on Friday 25 th November and Mr O'Neill is keen that as many people as possible turn up to support the team. Charleston also has two pupils through to the Rotary Masterchef final next week. The swimming team have also enjoyed some success recently and Mr O'Neill is delighted to report that the school football teams are once again up and running. He offered his thanks to all staff involved in these, and other, extra-curricular activities. This is an important week for the school with Remembrance Assemblies being held for all house groups. These assemblies involve local councillors along with representatives from both the British Legion and currently serving members of the armed forces. Pupils who took part in the recent Battlefield Trip, organised once again by Miss Bain, have been leading the assemblies. On Sunday the Head Boy and Head Girl will lay a wreath at the War Memorial and Senior Prefects will also read out the Kohima Epitaph and Binyons Words on behalf of the British Legion at Council HQ on 11 th November. Adverse weather letters were issued to all pupils last week. The preferred method of communication in these situations is the school Twitter feed or facebook. Parents are also reminded to look at the school website for updates. Mr O'Neill reported that the school is currently fully staffed following the appointment of additional Pupil Support Assistants. The school now has 15 PSAs which reflects the level of need within Charleston Academy. The office is also now fully staffed following Alison Pacey's appointment as a Clerical Assistant. There is a vacancy advertised currently for a Physics teacher as there is a vacancy from January 2017. Mr O'Neill and Mr Stewart are to attend a meeting at Headquarters tomorrow along with other Head teachers from both secondary and primary school in Highland to discuss the future of educational provision in Scotland.. |



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There is a meeting next week with the Chief Executive of Highland Council regarding restructuring and Mr O'Neill would like the Parent Council to keep abreast of this. Care and Learning currently make up almost half of all council staff and accounts for 60% of the budget. It is likely that the council may break up Care and Learning and move certain jobs/staff to other departments. Already the janitorial staff, cleaning staff and catering staff in the school are being taken out of Care and Learning. Mr O'Neill currently has direct management responsibilities for the janitorial staff. The school works better when all staff feel they are part of the school and we are very lucky that at present the cleaners and kitchen staff are excellent and are viewed as part of the school and feel invested in it.

The new QIO, May Beaton is to visit classrooms with members of SMT and Principal Teachers on the 8th of December and will report back on her findings.

Kate asked whether the school is due an inspection soon as timewise it would seem to be due shortly. Mr O'Neill advised that the previous model whereby a pupil should be in a school which has been inspected during their school years has been scrapped. Kate mentioned the e-mail sent out recently asking for parent's views on the future of education and urged all parents to give their views as the Scottish Government is consulting on further huge changes in education.

5. S1 Art Exhibition

Takes place next Tuesday. This is a great evening and the Art Department have put in a lot of effort to ensure it another success.

In addition to the S1 art there will be displays from both Higher Art and Higher Photography Students. The stalls include Ladybug Cakes and Highland Driftwood.

There will be tea and coffee – supplied by the Parent Council – and a raffle.

If anyone is available to help on the night please contact Kate as soon as possible. We are still looking for raffle prizes – so any donations will be most welcome.

6. Hand Washing

This issue was raised by Victoria Franklin. During P1 Parents Evening it was noted that there was no soap or hand drying facilities in the boys toilets. This constitutes a health risk.

Mr O'Neill responded by saying that there had been vandalism incidents in the toilets and this had resulted in the soap dispensers having to be removed due to damage and being replaced by bars of soap, which is the recommended method of the council. There has been incidents of the soap being flushed down the toilets etc. Mr O'Neill stated that he in no way blamed the cleaners or janitorial staff for any deficiencies in the facilities provided and said that the problem had worsened since the council's budget cuts meant that the school no longer has a day cleaner. While it is not a daily occurrence the vandalism is an on-going problem which is mentioned at assemblies regularly and, where culprits are identified, action is taken.

The soap and paper towels are replenished daily and both the cleaners and the janitors regularly check the facilities.

It was asked if the school would consider infrared soap dispensers – as the council would not fund this it would have to be paid from the school's own budget. Quotes may be obtained to be considered.



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| 7. | <p><u>Highland Parent Council Partnership Conference</u></p> <p>This body represents all Parent Councils in Highland and the annual conference will be held this Saturday 12 October at Charleston Academy. Kate will be attending with Fiona and if anyone else wishes to attend they should contact Kate asap.</p> <p>The speakers will include Bill Alexander (Director of Care and Learning) and Councillor Drew Hendry (Chair of ECAS committee).</p> <p>The Scottish Government is consulting on the future of the governance of education and there will be a ministerial engagement session at the Drumossie Hotel on Monday 28 November.</p> |
| 9. | <p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>The current bank balance is £2680.80.</p> <p>Funding – A request has been received for new tents for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Team. The tents would also be available for other groups in the school. Charleston is very lucky to have staff willing to give of their own time for this scheme.</p> <p>An electronic version of the request will be circulated.</p> <p>The funding for the basketball uniforms has gone through and the new strips purchased. Weather permitting the team are travelling to Portree tomorrow.</p> |
| 10. | <p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>A parental query regarding subject choices for S4 has been passed to Mr O'Neill. As this has been discussed at previous meetings no further discussion took place at this time.</p> |
| 11. | <p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>Tuesday 6th December at 7pm.</p> |