



CHARLESTON ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting held on 31st January 2017

Present: Fiona Malcolm; Julie Riddle; Lyndie Cameron, Teacher's rep; Rona MacPherson, Depute Rector; Kate Morris, Chair; Andrea Paterson; Fiona Alexander; Katrina Morrison; Ciara Flugel; Rona MacAskill; David Gillies; Gordon Stewart, Depute Rector.

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

Apologies:

1.	<u>WELCOME</u> Kate welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Annetta Crookes.
2.	<u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u> Proposed: Seconded:
3.	<u>MATTERS ARISING</u> Security – following on from the previous meeting Kate advised that she had received an e-mail today from Robert Campbell advising her that there will be a meeting at the school next week regarding the security upgrades of the school building following the incident last year. There will be a new entry system at the main door to the school and access control will be installed in the community centre to prevent unauthorised movement between the community centre and the gym halls. The hope is that the entry system to the main school will be time controlled and all visitors will have to be 'buzzed in' by office staff. The system in the community centre will be manned by their staff. The full details of the systems to be used will be given to SMT at the meeting and will be dependent on budgetary considerations. Car Parking beside Kinmylies Church – this was brought up at the last meeting and Kate advised that she has been in touch with the Parent Council at Kinmylies Primary School and they are already aware of the problem. They have been in touch with Councillor Graham Ross who is looking into the problem as part of the Safer Routes to School initiative. Kinmylies Church have also given permission for their car park to be used.
4.	<u>Rector's Report</u> Budget – Mr O'Neill advised that although he has no update on the actual figures for the school he was optimistic that the news would not be as dire in the past few years. The Scottish Government ratio of teachers to pupils must be maintained to ensure that the Highland Council do not face a fine – and as such it is hoped that no further cuts in teaching staff will be imposed. Although Charleston is currently over-staffed, due to using a budget carry-forward to cover staff costs for 1 teaching post, Mr O'Neill stated that he was hopeful of maintaining the current level. Attainment/equity challenge money – this refers to Scottish Government monies amounting to £100million which is to be given to schools to raise attainment levels for under-privileged students. Schools will be required to bid for funding by demonstrating how they will raise attainment. Projects already in place at Charleston e.g. Boxing club, Speeder Readers, Growing Together – will not be eligible for extra funding and there is concern that funding from other agencies may dry up if they expect the money to be made available via the Attainment Fund. Mr O'Neill advised that he will find out full details on 7 th February. Chrome books – Highland Council are progressing the roll out across the authority to give a Chrome book to every pupil in P4 to S6. This will begin in August of this year and Charleston is



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	<p>scheduled to be included in the second phase of the roll-out, probably this time next year. Mr O'Neill reiterated that Charleston is well equipped for ICT at the moment with the recent purchase of 100 I-pads for use by students. The school is not intending to purchase any more due to the Chrome Book initiative which will give every pupil access to the internet. Teachers are not to be given Chrome Books under this initiative but any device which can use Google Chrome can be used in the same way. The Chrome books have no memory capacity and concern was raised as children may not always have Wi-Fi access at home.</p> <p>The Geography department are currently testing the viability of using downloads in place of text books – both the costs and viability (licensing issues etc.) will be looked into. There is also the issue regarding pupils access to broadband as many pupils live in remote areas.</p>
5.	<p><u>Work Experience</u></p> <p>Rona advised that the new system means that all pupils in their last year at Charleston would be offered work experience. Other pupils in S4 and 5 who could benefit would also be eligible for work experience if it is in their best interests. Guidance teachers will speak to their PSE classes about this once the prelims are finished. The new system involves an extra layer of work for guidance teachers in contacting potential employers. Employers are looking for pupils with an enthusiasm for their particular field.</p>
6.	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>The bank balance currently stands at £2281.56. There are no current funding requests but Lyndie advised that there are some expected.</p>
7.	<p><u>CORRESPONDENCE</u></p> <p>Kate advised that a thank you card had been received from the Basketball Club, who have purchased new uniforms following the funding request granted by the Parent Council last year.</p>
9.	<p><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS –</u></p>
10.	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 7pm on: 14th March 2017</u></p>