



CHARLESTON ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of Charleston Academy Parent Council Meeting on Wednesday 12th September

Present:-

Gordon Stewart, Rona MacPherson, Lyndie Cameron

Kate Morris, Cathy Fraser, David Garvie, Ciara Flugel, Lynsey Graham, David Gillies, Maureen Burnett, Fiona Malcolm, Antonia Macdonald, Andrew Maclean, Grant Franklin.

Welcome and Apologies

Kate opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. The latest set of minutes were amended in terms of attendance.

Apologies were noted from Margaret Davidson and Emma Knox.

Matters Arising

None

Rector's Report

The following points were noted:-

1. Issues for progress - GS indicated that the school were in the process of gathering information using staff and parent surveys and as a result of that working groups had been set up. These would include putting together a Vision Statement for the school which would have in impact on school objectives and ethos. Another working group would deal with attainment as the school would get a virtual comparator school from the Scottish Government in order to assist in mapping progress.
2. Attainment - In terms of results GS was pleased with recent attainment in SQA exams in that results were similar to last year which was considered a positive given the difficulties there had been in terms of staffing. There had however been a significant improvement in the results at Nat 5 in that the number of pupils achieving 5 or more subjects at A-C had increased from 25% - 37%. This is a significant improvement and GS would expect to see a rise in next year's



CHARLESTON ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Higher results. The staff were however also focussing on attainment in S1 so that the improvement in results might continue.

3. Common Room - An area had been identified for a common room for s6 which is necessary as S6 have free periods and to date have had nowhere to spend time during those periods.
4. 40th anniversary party - This is to be in November. There will be a fashion show and a disco. Also a concert in May and there will be the usual Albert Roux dinner in January.
5. The toilets have been completed albeit mirrors still require to be installed.
6. Lead Prefect Team - This is being looked at by LC and is likely to link lead prefects to year groups
7. Website - This takes up a lot of time and it was agreed that it should focus on key information.

Building

GS had recently met with architects from the Highland Council who had set out their thinking on the basis of the money allocated in the capital programme for Charleston - £7.5m. It was thought that a new building would be erected on the blaze which would take the practical subjects being Science, Home Economics, Technical Subject and Art to be completed in 3 years. The building would be capable of expansion if necessary. GS accepted that there was also work to be done to the main fabric of the school. There will also be some internal work done in terms of the removal of dividing walls as some classrooms are too small. There are also likely to be some demountables. The response to this was very positive and it was agreed that pressure should be maintained in relation to the Estates team to take this work forward. Robert Campbell would be invited to the AGM.

The astro pitch will be replaced but that is part of a separate funding stream.

Dress Code

A letter had been issued in relation to this to work towards shirt and tie by next session. The PC agreed with this approach and that in the first instance it would not extend to footwear.



CHARLESTON ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

S4 Curriculum

It was agreed that subject to consultation with pupils and parents that from next session 7 subjects should be offered at s4. This is supported by the PC and has the support of the staff

Staffing

At present there are no permanent guidance teachers in post which has an impact on other subjects where teachers are acting in that role. Those guidance roles are out for recruitment. The DHT job is not yet being advertised. There is an issue with ASN staffing at present as 2 teachers are on long term absence and there is also a gap in RE.

Finance

There is no change to the cash position. There were no funding requests

Any other Business

1. School Buses - this had been an issue in terms of sufficiency of seating on the Kirkhill bus which appears to have been resolved.
2. Attendance at meeting with Members from Inverness Ward - Fiona Malcolm had attended for Charleston and altho the meeting was poorly attended the members were supportive of the 2 issues raised being the state of the building and the increase in the subject choice at s4. The members raised questions in relation to IT provision and ASN.
3. Participatory Funding - the PC were aware that this was coming up for the Inverness West ward so thought should be given to what funding could be requested for a school initiative
4. Seeking a representative from the Senior School for an initiative to be a youth rep on the Developing the Young Work Force Board for a year
5. Parents would find it helpful if information was given from the school at the start of the session about the curriculum ie what units made up various exams. It was thought that this could be included on the website

Next meeting is the AGM on 3rd October at 7pm