

Minutes of Parent Council A.G.M.

Johnstone High School

11th September 2017

Attendees

Parents: Diane Spence (DS), Jacqueline Tavendale (JT), Anne Campbell (AC), Martine Wylie (MW), Gillian Williams (GW), Cassy Auld (CA), Lorna Hendriks (LHe), Cllr. Andy Steel (AS), Jean McFarlane (JMc), Elaine Gray (EG), Kerry Crichton (KC), Teresa Harvey (TH), Jennifer Murdoch (JM)

Staff: Lynne Hollywood (LH), Ryan Miller (RM) & Ainsley Brown (AB)

Apologies

Kirsten Lyons, Paul Cameron, Lesley Reid

Presentation on SQA results

Prior to the start of the Parent Council meeting DHT Ryan Miller presented the results of the 2016/7 SQA exam results. The overall picture was positive.

Welcome

DS welcomed Teresa Harvey as a new parent member of the Parent Council. Jennifer Thomson and Tracy Scott have also joined the Parent Council. Neil Fowler has stepped down.

Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting/AGM on 15th May were reviewed and approved. The Actions from the previous meeting were as follows: -

Update on Show My Homework

On the agenda as agreed.

Chase up on previous Bronze DofE Award Certificates

Lauren Montgomery is the point of contact.

Revisit Waiting List for New Parent Council Members

Criteria for selection was length of time on list and achieving a fair representation of Primary School catchment areas. Invitations to join Parent Council were included in induction packs as requested.

Promote Carnival Tickets

The carnival made a £12 profit and was a success in terms of pupil enjoyment.

Consultation Meeting with Parents re School Improvement Plan

This was done online.

Advise Staff and S5/6 who are fundraising for India 2019 about Car Boot Sale Pitch

Advised.

Consider School Facebook Page

Preference is to shut down the Facebook page and update the school website. Twitter is the main means of school communication which is regularly updated with news, photographs and events.

Show My Homework

Mrs O'Malley has checked instructions on activating alerts on the MySchool App as requested.

Engaging with Parents Sub-Group

CA has been added to this sub group as requested.

Parent Council Support on the Curriculum Plan

Mr Menzies will arrange another focus group meeting before the end of September. **(1)**

Chairperson's Report

Membership – covered above

Treasurer's Report – At the time of the meeting the Parent Council Fundraising Bank Balance stood at £8,712. This includes a grant of £6.5K from the Local Area Committee, £1.5K from the Glasgow Airport Flightpath Fund, £673 from the Car Boot Sale and £225 from the S1/S2 Movie Night. This is a fantastic start in a short period of time and more than we could have hoped for.

Funding - Additionally, there are other grants and funds pending which if finalised will provide a significant boost to funds. AS thanked DS for her very effective presentation to the LAC which has all but secured a further grant. Funds raised will be used to improve the school campus including outside social areas, new gardens, netball and basketball courts and running track. Several meetings will take place to ascertain how we can secure these further funds and implement our improvement plans. The fundraising group welcomes new members. A discussion took place about planning a pre-Christmas social event. An event incorporating a craft fayre was suggested. Jennifer suggested contacting Persimmon Homes to see if they could perhaps offer a donation/grant to help improve the school. AC said she would approach them. **(2)**

Holiday Options Consultation – LH explained the 3 options that there were for school year 2018/19 and asked the Parent Council to provide a show of hands to decide which of the 3 options they prefer. The Parent Council voted for option B, where in-service days are before the holidays, one day holiday during May weekend and an earlier finish for the summer. LH will also canvas pupils and staff before providing feedback to Education HQ along with other schools.

Head Teacher's Report

The Head Teacher's Report is available on the web site.

Staffing

LH explained that the level of staff turnover is normal for the teaching profession.

Pupil Events

The School Calendar has now been issued.

School Improvement Agenda

The School improvement plans have been passed by HQ.

Press

Good press coverage regarding the 'straight A' students but LH emphasised that the school was equally delighted with every pupil who attained at every level.

Update on Building Improvements

There are new tables and chairs in the non-practical areas and the new Vision, Values and Aims posters are on display throughout the school.

Head Teacher

Columba 1400

LH spent 4 days completing this well-established leadership academy held in Skye in June. This is an initiative that Sir Tom Hunter has invested in via the Scottish Government, aimed at upskilling Head Teachers. LH was selected to attend by Renfrewshire Council. The academy is values led and focuses on vision. Going forward pupils from Johnstone High and Paisley Grammar will have the opportunity to send fifteen 3rd year pupils to Columba 1400 in March. This will involve outdoor team working activities with the aim to provide the pupils with the training and tools to become vision/values ambassadors over a 3-year period and to really make a difference to their school. No money will be required from the pupils who are selected. Selection will be carried out to ensure that the SIMD of the group is mixed. Columba 1400 will advise the school on how to best select the pupils for this opportunity.

Prom

The current S6 pupils have been advised that Renfrewshire Council has issued guidelines regarding the school prom. Proms must be held mid-week and not on a Friday. A discussion took place about the role of parents at the Prom. LH is going to speak to Michael Dewar at Park Mains High School for advice on the potential use of Rock Steady to be present at any event. **(3)**

Youth Philanthropy Initiative for S3

Backed by Sir Ian Wood, YPI is funding a £3K award to a local charity which will be selected by Johnstone High School pupils based on presentations made by S3. S3 pupils must work in groups to research a social issue and identify a local charity that supports this issue and could benefit from the award.

Scottish Attainment Challenge / Pupil Equity Fund Updates

Our new transition teacher is Joyce Haining and Maureen McCallum is the new Inclusion Support Officer. Both are funded by the local authority through the Scottish Attainment Challenge. Our pupil equity fund is aimed at promoting nurture.

Show My Homework

It was agreed that a workshop on the use of Show My Homework would be useful for tips on how to link accounts, find homework attachments, etc. LH to consider this. **(4)**

Dynamic Maths

Digital copies of everything related to Dynamic Maths are being made available in Glow. There has been a lot of coverage of this on Twitter including parental involvement. DS noted that it would be good to have parental access to this material.

Duke of Edinburgh Update

Pupils are participating in both Bronze and Silver levels this year and all pupils who have expressed an interest have been accommodated.

A.O.B.

MW noted concern that the school bus is arriving at school late. LH said that the school is complaining every day and asked that parents do the same.

TH said that the school taxi contract is also an issue and that she had complained to the Council after the taxi was arriving late on several occasions. Cllr AS said that this should be taken up with the Renfrewshire Council **(5)**

CA expressed concern about the quality and price of school dinners. LH explained that a School Nutrition Action Group (SNAG) has been set up consisting of staff and pupils. LH suggested that parents are invited in to look at the quality of school meals **(6)**

Summary of Actions

1	Curriculum plan focus group meeting for parents to be arranged	GM
2	Contact Persimmon Homes to see if a grant or fund is available	AC
3	Speak to Michael Dewar (Park Mains) about the use of Rock Steady for S6 Prom	LH
4	Consider a workshop for the use of Show My Homework App	LH
5	Report transport issues to the council	Cllr AS
5	Consider inviting parents to view school canteen facilities/options	LH

NEXT MEETING Monday 13th November 2017 at 7pm