

## Minutes of Parent Council A.G.M.

### Johnstone High School

13<sup>th</sup> November 2017

#### Attendees

**Parents:** Diane Spence (DS), Cllr Bill Binks (CllrBB), Kerry Crichton (KC), Martine Wylie (MW), Anne Campbell (AC), Tracy Scott (TS), Jacqueline Tavendale (JT), Jean McFarlane (JMcf), Cllr Andy Steel (CllrAS), Lesley Reid (LR), Paul Cameron (PC), Gillian Williams (GW), Lorna Hendriks (LH), Kirsten Lyons (KL)

**Staff:** Lynne Hollywood (LH), Joanne Sturgeon (JS), Ainsley Brown (AB) & Katy Robertson (KR)

#### Apologies

Elaine Gray , Cassy Auld, Angela Kerr, Teresa Harvey

#### Welcome

DS welcomed Cllr Binks, new parent member Tracy Scott and member of staff Katy Robertson who would present on her work as PT of Learning. JS was also in attendance as DHT and would also give an update on pupil support

#### Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting 11<sup>th</sup> September 17 were reviewed and approved. The actions from the previous meeting were as follows: -

##### **Curriculum plan focus group meeting for parents to be arranged**

This meeting was arranged. JMcf attended and explained content of meeting.

##### **Contact Persimmon Homes to see if a grant or fund is available**

AC to carry this action forward. **(1)**

##### **Speak to Michael Dewar from Park Mains about the use of Rock Steady for S6 Prom**

This would be discussed later in the meeting.

##### **Workshop for use of Show My Homework App**

Support was available at parents' night. JS reported that there was positive feedback from parents. An action to add video screen shots. **(2)**

##### **Report transport issues to the Council**

Cllr AS confirmed that he had done this.

##### **Consider inviting parents to view school canteen facilities/options**

There was an open night for S1 when parents were able to eat with their children and learn about show my homework. LH plans to run a similar event for p7 pupils c. March 2018. **(3)**

## Learning & Teaching Update

Katy Robertson handed out a 10-point statement of Johnstone High School's key elements of learning. This document was drawn up following an audit taken by all staff. These 10 points will become a base line for how all lessons should be conducted. LH explained the intention to have a clear, glossy copy of this statement visible in all classrooms.

Learning walks are on-going. LH said the school is using learning walks to better understand what is happening in classes and pupils have also been asked for feedback on what they believe is working. The teaching staff are also carrying out learning walks within their own teaching learning communities. LH noted that learning walks are being enjoyed and that they are creating an atmosphere where teachers have an open door and are comfortable with other staff coming into each other's classrooms. Maureen Sneddon, Education Manager, had commented on the warm welcome she had encountered during her series of learning walks. This is all part of a culture change that is happening in the school.

## Chairperson's Report

**Chair Liaison Meeting** – the meeting planned for w/c 6<sup>th</sup> November was cancelled. The next meeting will be Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

**Christmas Craft Fayre** – This is being held on 29<sup>th</sup> November. KL has arranged 25 stalls so far. The school office has developed a flyer. Primary head teachers and local communities have been informed. A festive scene is being provided for the school entrance. Home economics are providing baking and mince pies. Each stall holder will pay £15 per table and will also donate a raffle prize. AB has arranged pupils to do nail painting and a parent has volunteered to provide head and neck massages. Requests to be made for tombola prizes and home baking.

**School Grounds Project** – Parent Council are fund raising to improve the main entrance area of the school to make it more welcoming. Social seating will be made available. Other suggestions include the councils' food van permanently in the courtyard – this would hopefully reduce the number of pupils leaving the school grounds at lunch time. The Parent Council is also looking to improve the sports court and garden area. KC is going to obtain a potential layout for ideas **(4)** Brochures with examples of environmentally friendly outdoor furniture are available and it was agreed that a multifaceted approach to the project (achieving environmental goals, learning goals, pupils acquiring new skills etc as well as providing a better social area) was required.

LH to ask Graeme Johnston to consider a blue print of the courtyard for the furniture layout. **(5)**

## Head Teacher's Report

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

### Staffing

LH explained that the school had to cope with unavoidable long-term sickness absences amongst staff. LH assured the Parent Council that all available teaching staff had already been brought on board where possible and that "Please Take" cover lessons were a last resort. In maths the

teachers are being rotated to ensure there is an appropriate balance of specialist teaching achieved across all year groups and classes.

LH explained the challenges in finding available and suitable staff but was hopeful that this would be improved.

### **Update on Building Improvements**

There are new tables and chairs in all non-practical teaching classrooms (eg. English, Social Subjects) and the new Vision, Values and Aims posters are on display throughout the school.

### **School Life**

LH gave an update on the appointment of pupil leaders within the school. LH also covered maths week, Columba 1400 and the Youth Philanthropy Initiative for S3.

### **Pupil Events**

In consultation with parents, the sad decision has been taken to cancel the London trip in 2018. The S6 pupils ran a successful Halloween party for S1. S2's joined Mr Fenwick at the Ardentinny trip on September. Activities would take place in November to tie in Children in Need and the anti-bullying week.

### **School Improvement Agenda**

Steven Quinn, Assistant Director of Education visited the school as part of a programme of visits to all Renfrewshire High Schools to discuss SQA results. Steven was happy with the all-round approach being taken by the school and commented that the meeting with the PT's was the best he had been to by the time of his visit (7<sup>th</sup> school visited in the area). Maureen Sneddon is our new Education Manager at HQ and she joined Steven Quinn on his visit. Maureen would be visiting the school again on 13<sup>th</sup> November and 4<sup>th</sup> December to carry out learning walks, talk to the SMT, PTs and focus groups of pupils. This will allow her to provide feedback on progress at the school particularly around the priority areas of health and wellbeing and learning and teaching.

### **Press**

The Paisley Gazette would like to forge a relationship with the school to support cover key events such as the Christmas Fayre and wider achievements. This will be developed.

### **Building Improvement**

AB, in her role as PT of Nurture is planning to transform a dedicated space in the top corridor into a nurture base by 18<sup>th</sup> January. This base is for our most vulnerable pupils. LH to arrange to take Pupil Council members to visit area at the February meeting **(6)**

Mr Brown, PT Pupil Support, has plans to convert the Youth Base to a "safe space" for S1/S2, run by seniors.

### **Maths Update**

LH shared an update from Susan Condy, PT of Maths. PC asked if it was possible to track usage of the Digital Library **(7)**

### After School Club Cancellations

DS said that Parent Council member TH had asked about an alert system for updates on after school clubs, especially if they are cancelled. LH agreed to look into this, but it depends on the staff notifying the school office. KC said that there is an app called "Squad and Touch" which may be appropriate. KC to discuss at February meeting. **(8)**

### Treasurer's Update

Parent Council funds currently standing at £18.5K

### DHT Pupil Support Update

JS provided an update on the approach to well-being. This is a key priority along with Teaching and Learning.

There is a new house and pastoral care structure in place. There is a tracking system for attainment, demerits and attendance with a goal to achieve early intervention. So far attendance rates are up on last year at all stages of the school. There has been a whole-school approach to nurture which AB has been working on and providing training on behaviour. This is having an impact; there is a different feel about the school with a greater sense of calm. There is a new procedure for tackling attendance issues with lots of steps in place to encourage pupils to come to school before a pupil is referred to a reporter. Miss Wilson has been doing work on bullying awareness and empowering young people through peer mentoring. The school PSE Programme has changed due to pupil feedback and has used the Dartington Study/approach when making changes.

<b>1</b>	Contact Persimmon Homes to see if a grant or fund is available (carried forward from 11/09/170)	<b>AC</b>	
<b>2</b>	Screen shots of Show My Homework App to be made available on the website	<b>LH</b>	
<b>3</b>	Repeat parent/child school dinner and Show my homework evening for P7 c. March	<b>LH</b>	
<b>4</b>	Obtain a plan of school grounds to enable consideration of school grounds layouts	<b>KC</b>	
<b>5</b>	Ask Mr Johnstone (Technical) to consider design for School Grounds furniture	<b>LH</b>	
<b>6</b>	Show Parent Council Members around the new Nurture Base at the February meeting	<b>LH</b>	
<b>7</b>	Can we get an indication of the usage of the Maths Digital Library	<b>LH</b>	
<b>8</b>	Share information on after school club app at February Meeting	<b>KC</b>	

**NEXT MEETING Monday 19th February 2018 at 7pm**