

Prestwick Academy Parent Council Cluster Meeting

Meeting – Monday 11 March 2019

In attendance:

Mark Anderson, Acting Head Teacher; Craig Ross, Acting Deputy Head Teacher; Jamie Anderson, School Captain;

Alastair McIntyre (Chair), Euan Terras (Secretary), Alison McNeil (Treasurer), Colin Risk, Fiona Baird, Gillian Maxwell, Jerry Ferguson, Lindsay McMahon (Glenburn PC), Fiona Khaliq, Monique Morrison, Councillors Margaret Toner and Ian Cochrane (Prestwick Ward).

Apologies:

Jadyn Walker (School Captain), Cllr Hugh Hunter, Harry Boyce, Chris Rimmer (Heathfield PC), Ann Marie Tierney, Fiona Hainey, Euan Duncan

Introduction

Alastair McIntyre welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular to Lindsay McMahon of Glenburn Parent Council. Noting that Jerry Ferguson was representing Kingcase and Monique Morrison representing Symington. Our Minute Secretary, Jane Shute has had to step down due to work commitments and a new Minute Secretary is now required and in the interim Euan Terras agreed to take the Minutes of the meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 January 2019, which had been circulated by email in advance were approved. Proposed by Fiona Baird and seconded by Gillian Maxwell.

Report from Chair

Alastair McIntyre reported on some of the activities taking place in the school since the last meeting. Both he and Euan Terras had attended a meeting of Parent Council Chairs held by South Ayrshire Council on 5th February 2019 where the topics for discussion included a presentation on the National Parent Forum of Scotland, increase in Early Years provision, the education budget and instrumental tuition fees. Alastair had also visited the Learning Support department in advance of the Decision Day event last Saturday 9th March where the school, in conjunction with the Parent Council, were successful in being awarded £1.000 to help fund an outdoor learning area and sensory garden.

It was also suggested that the Parent Council should undertake more fundraising activities in the future.

Head Teacher's Report

Mark Anderson's Report is attached to these Minutes.

School Captain's Report

Jamie Anderson, School Captain, gave a report on various events which included chairing the Authority's P7 Burns Supper in Ayr Town Hall, LGBT events, mock interviews which were found to be very useful and informative, a Holocaust Memorial Event which was extremely interesting with the opportunity of meeting one of the survivors, S6 supporting the P7 Information Evening and the launch of the Nurturing Lunch film.

Looking ahead the Spring Showcase Concert at the end of March would be hosted once again by Jamie but unfortunately this would be his last. Jamie was complimented by those present for his input and for his unique brand of humour over the years that he has compered this event.

Presentation on LGBT / Health & Wellbeing

Craig Ross circulated a handout for his presentation on these issues which is attached to these Minutes.

He also reported that the 'safe space' area which the school now has available after school has been very successful. There are also counsellors in the school on Tuesdays and Thursdays and in addition certain staff members have received training which allows for the provision of a "Listening to You" facility open to pupils.

Mr McCabe will be meeting with the Deputy First Minister soon to present some of the work that the school has been doing in these areas.

Education Budget 2019

Mark Anderson reported that great care was required in looking after the school budget and how money was spent generally, especially as some unspent funds can no longer be carried forward to the following year as had previously been the case. A two year subscription had been taken out for a new homework diary app – "Show My Homework" to replace the existing homework diaries.

Proposed School Holidays 2020/21

Proposals for school holidays in 2020/21 were circulated for discussion with the main issue being whether there was a one day holiday in February along with an in-service day, or whether the one day holiday should be taken at the end of May instead. After discussion, it was felt that the one day holiday would work better in February. The appropriate response would be sent to County Buildings.

AOCB

A question was asked regarding the policy for using mobile phones in school. It was reported that there had been a recent staff meeting when this issue was discussed and there is a proposed scheme whereby areas of the school will either be designated green or red zones, signifying whether phones can or cannot be used. The emphasis is on a consistent approach across the school. There will be further details given at the next meeting.

It was also reported that, despite the discussions at the last meeting, the bank account with RBS will require to be continued in light of the award from the Decision Day event. Signatories were sought from Parent Council members. The appointed signatories to be confirmed at the next meeting.

Close

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.40pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

The next meeting will be on 13 May 2019. Date for June social meeting to be confirmed