

Prestwick Academy Parent Council

Meeting - Monday 11th November 2019

In attendance:

Mark Anderson, Acting Head Teacher;

Alastair McIntyre (Chair), Jerry Ferguson (Vice Chair,) Euan Terras (Secretary), Fiona Baird (Treasurer), Andrea Hammond, Fiona Khaliq, Anne-Marie Tierney, Monique Morrison (Parents), Cllr Hugh Hunter (Prestwick Ward), Scarlett Ross (School Captain)

Apologies from Provost Moonie, Euan Duncan, Sharon Graham.

Introduction

Alastair McIntyre welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies submitted.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th September 2019 had been circulated by email in advance and were unanimously approved.

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 8th October 2019, where the topics for discussion included a presentation by Susan Bell, South Ayrshire Representative on National Parent Forum for Scotland, Hilary Iannotti from SAC re school meals, Sarah Stevenson from GTCS and Douglas Hutchison, Director of Education.

It was suggested that we invite Susan Bell along to one of our future meetings, possibly a cluster event, to talk about the work of the NPFS.

Alastair also attended the Remembrance Service at Prestwick Cross on 10th November along with Mark Anderson and School Captains.

Head Teacher's Report

Report is attached. In addition it was reported that a fundraising event would be held in support of Motor Neurone Disease.

Funding has been confirmed from Scottish Government in respect of the ongoing work of the in-school counsellor for pupils. Funding is being increased from £39,000 to £54,000 per annum meaning that the counsellor could move from the current 3 day week to a full time post, thus increasing the number of weekly sessions for pupils from 12 to 20.

School Captain's Report

Scarlett gave a detailed report of ongoing activities within the school which included the following:

- The introduction of sanitary products in the female toilets was ongoing and thus far very well received.
- A whole host of activities for Children In Need were planned, including a car wash, staff v students basket ball and badminton matches, leg waxing, sponge the teachers & a bake sale.
- The school speaker had been installed and feedback from pupils was good. Individual year playlists were being worked on.
- The mental health ambassadors group had recently held a meeting.
- Scarlett & Eve had also attended a Remembrance Service at Biggart Hospital along with Mr Ross.
- The School Captains were also assisting at transitional events and planning a Christmas activities day.

Alastair thanked Scarlett for a very full report and for all the work the School Captains and senior students undertake.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

The intended agenda had included a talk by the school librarian however she was unable to attend the meeting. Instead, Mark Anderson took the opportunity to distribute round those attending a survey on the various Articles of the UNCRC, asking parents to rate the various Articles according to priority from Prestwick Academy's point of view. The staff and pupils had already completed this survey. The outcome of the survey would help develop a more positive culture and ethos in the school.

AOCB

A discussion on the implementation of the 'Show My Homework' app also took place which highlighted some of the teething problems that parents have experienced and this would be reviewed.

It was also reported that the newly implemented policy on mobile phones had largely been successful. Mark Anderson stressed the aim was to ensure the policy continued to be consistently applied throughout the school by all staff.

A question was asked about communications between school and parents regarding sporting events taking place outwith the school as part of pupils wider achievements and the fact that sometimes these are not widely known. Mark Anderson encouraged all parents to feed in to the school via the main email address any details about such events, successes and achievements. It was hoped that the Active Schools Coordinator could attend a future meeting.

A discussion also took place about school lunchtimes and the need to ensure that all children were able to have their lunch within the shorter period, especially with lunchtime activities taking place. Space restrictions are an issue in poor weather when more pupils are staying in school.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is 13th January 2020.

Close

Alastair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.20pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair