

Prestwick Academy Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting – Monday 13 January 2020

**In attendance:**

Mark Anderson (Acting Head Teacher); Alastair McIntyre (Chair), Jerry Ferguson (Vice Chair), Euan Terras (Secretary), Harry Boyce, Emma Boughen, Elizabeth Cairns, Karen Menzies, Jill Wright, Fiona Khaliq, Ann-Marie Tierney, Colin Risk, Jacqueline Risk, Euan Duncan (Parents), Eve Kennedy (School Captain), Amiee Alexander (Active Schools Co-ordinator)

**Apologies:**

Councillors Margaret Toner and Hugh Hunter, Monique Morrison, Sharon Graham and Fiona Baird

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**1. Introduction**

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

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The draft Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 November 2019 had been circulated by email in advance and were unanimously approved.

**3. Report from Chair**

There were no matters to be reported from Alastair, however Euan Terras had attended a meeting of Parent Council Chairs held on 27 November 2019, where the topics for discussion included an update on the Pupil Equity Fund, the Educational Services Standards and Quality Report which had been circulated by email in advance and which was noted was now in a format easier to understand. Also discussed were the revised guidelines for Devolved School Management which would be put to the Council's Leadership Panel in February 2020 and which aims to empower schools to make decisions that most affect their particular circumstances, improving consultation and transparency and giving schools greater control of their budgets. The revised guidelines should be implemented in April 2020.

**4. Acting Head Teacher's Report**

Report is attached to these Minutes.

As far as charities are concerned, there had been an additional event for Motor Neuron Disease and raising over £900. The senior pupils were also organising a series of events for SeaScape throughout the year.

As far as the School Peer Review is concerned, there was circulated feedback from this review together with the agreed points of action which, it was reported, are already

contained within the School Improvement Plan and which will be looked at again next year in order to assess progress.

It was commented that as regards Christmas activities, there was poor demand from S3 and S4 for a Christmas Party, however the event for the remaining years were popular.

A concern was raised regarding the format of the Report Cards for S1 in that they were not as informative as those obtained at Primary School and a discussion followed as regards the different types of Reports and the increased information which was contained within each pupil's Report as they progressed through their secondary career.

A discussion also followed regarding Show My Homework. This has been largely welcomed by parents but in some instances lacks uniformity and consistency. This should improve over time.

## **5. Report on Pupil Equity Fund**

Mark Anderson gave an overview of the background to the Pupil Equity Fund which relates to additional funding paid directly to schools in order to target the poverty-related attained gap. A report on this had been circulated in advance. Each school receives £1,200 for each child who is eligible **and registered** for free school meals. Prestwick Academy received £66,000 last year and this year £59,400. It was highlighted that this funding goes directly to target support for children and young people affected by poverty to help achieve their full potential. Many of the issues surround children who simply are absent from school and it has been shown that where the children can be encouraged to come to school and stay at school then they generally do well and are supported well. The school tries hard to establish who is eligible, however it is felt that there remains a significant number of young people who would be eligible for free school meals but for various reasons have not registered and so there is work to be done which in turn would increase the amount of PEF funding payable to the school to help target this group. The PEF funding is applied to resources such as the library, the English department in relation to targeting literacy and the Education Support Officer whose role has been particularly successful. Funds were also to be used for a CAMHS nurse on a 0.5 basis, to be shared with Marr College although this is still to be implemented.

It was discussed that South Ayrshire Council were looking at the idea of auto-enrolment in order to ensure that all who are eligible for free school meals are in fact registered, however, there is data protection issues with this at a national level and the problem has not yet been resolved.

## **6. School Captains Report**

Eve gave an overview of the various activities that the senior pupils had been carrying out since the last meeting although prelims were taking up much of the time.

There had been a number of Christmas activities which had been enjoyed throughout the school. The majority of S6 pupils had been involved in organising and running these.

As mentioned at previous meetings, the free sanitary products in the girls toilets has been a great success as has the music speaker in the canteen area.

After the exams finish, the School Captains will be looking at further activities which will be reported on at future meetings.

## **7. Active Schools**

Our Active School Co-ordinator, Amiee Anderson was welcomed to the meeting and she gave an overview of the active schools resources. Amiee's time is split between several secondary schools which obviously means that there is a limit to the activities that can be provided. She advised that the Active Schools was going through a period of change just now as it moved to community based projects as well as projects undertaken within schools. The common problem currently is the reduction in the number of pupils taking parts in extra-curricular activities – down to just 7% of secondary pupils. This is due to a number of factors including the shorter lunch break which prevents pupils taking part in many of the sporting activities during lunch and also due to the lack of transport for after-schools activities. This is a big contrast to primary schools where almost all children are involved in some form of active schools activity. The challenge therefore is to encourage more pupils to take part.

Prestwick Academy is particularly strong in the leadership aspects of active schools and there are a number of senior pupils who have achieved Saltire Certificates for achieving over 100 volunteering hours, spread over a number of years.

They are looking at a cluster sporting event. They are also looking at funding for a mini-bus to assist with transport issues.

Events are publicised as widely as possible and are included in the daily bulletin. They are looking at including these within Show My Homework.

## **8. AOCB**

An issue was raised about the boys' toilets within the school being locked on occasions. Mark Anderson assured those present that if one particular toilet was locked then there would be alternatives available. He asked that if this problem continued that he be made aware.

## **9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is 9 March 2020.

## **Close**

Alastair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.45 pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair.