

Prestwick Academy Parent Council

Meeting – Monday 20 May 2019

In attendance:

Mark Anderson, Acting Head Teacher;

Alastair McIntyre (Chair), Euan Terras (Secretary), Alison McNeil (Treasurer), Fiona Baird, Jerry Ferguson, Euan Duncan, Andrea Hammond, Cllrs Hugh Hunter and Ian Cochrane (Prestwick Ward).

Apologies from Provost Moonie, Cllr Margaret Toner, Gillian Maxwell, Fiona Khaliq, Anne-Marie Tierney, Fiona Hainey and Monique Morrison.

Introduction

Alastair McIntyre welcomed everyone to the meeting which would be the final formal meeting of this academic year.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 March 2019 which had been circulated by email in advance were approved. Proposed by Alison McNeil and seconded by Jerry Ferguson.

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 , where the topics for discussion included a presentation by Susan Bell who is now the South Ayrshire Representative on National Parent Forum for Scotland and Euan Terras had provided an update on Music Tuition Fees. Further topics from Douglas Hutcheson included the introduction of two extra in-service days in April and September starting next year and on the IT investment being rolled out across all schools in South Ayrshire.

Head Teacher's Report

Mark Anderson's Report is attached to these Minutes.

Report on Mobile Phone Policy

Mark Anderson's Report is attached to these Minutes.

Some research has been done within the school on mobile phone usage and this is about to be launched to staff and pupils. Mr Anderson emphasised the need to give clear guidelines on when and where pupils should use their phones. There is a concern on the length of time young people are using their phones and the possible effects on their mental health. It was also emphasised the need for consistency with signage throughout the school and also the need for some exceptions, hence the proposal is to introduce guidelines as opposed to a policy.

Report on Pupil Equity Fund

Mark Anderson's Report is attached to these Minutes.

Discussion – The Role of the Parent Council

A discussion took place on the role of the Parent Council and in particular what section of the Parent Council is amongst the wider parent body. A discussion took place as to whether we should be raising the profile of the council.

AOCB

A question was raised about the new Reports which had been piloted in Prestwick Academy earlier this session. The general feeling of both management, staff and parents had been very disappointing. Mr Anderson advised that the Reports to be issued at the end this year should be vastly improved.

It was also noted that Alison McNeil would be stepping down from the Parent Council with her sons leaving school. The time and commitment given by Alison over the last 13 years with her involvement in Parent Councils both at Kingcase and at Prestwick Academy was recognised and appreciated.

Close

The final meeting of the year will be the informal end of session meeting which will take place on Monday, 24 June 2019 at 7pm at Prestwick Pioneer, Main Street, Prestwick.

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