

Prestwick Academy Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting – Monday 9 March 2020

In attendance:

Mark Anderson, Acting Head Teacher; Alastair McIntyre (Chair). Jerry Ferguson (Vice Chair), Euan Terras (Secretary), Fiona Baird (Treasurer), Debbie Campbell, Ann-Marie Tierney, Fiona Khaliq, Sheona Johnson, Kevin Harkness, Euan Duncan, Jill Wright, Karen Menzies, Andrea Hammond, Monique Morrison (Parents) Scarlett Ross and Abby Harkness (School Captains), Cllr Margaret Toner (South Ayrshire Council) and Susan Bell (South Ayrshire Rep – National Parent Forum Scotland)

Apologies:

Cllr Hugh Hunter, Liz Cairns, Glenburn & St Ninians Parent Councils, Claire Dinelow-Smith of Kingcase School Council .

1. Introduction

Alastair McIntyre welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies submitted. A special welcome was extended to Susan Bell, South Ayrshire representative of the NPFS.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The draft Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 January 2020 had been circulated by email in advance and were unanimously approved.

3. Report from Chair

Other than the recent school inspection from Education Scotland which would be discussed later in the meeting, there were no matters raised by the Chair.

4. Acting Head Teacher's Report

Report is attached to these Minutes.

It was also reported that the projected school roll for the forthcoming academic year was 1,221 pupils, this was up from 1,207 for the current academic year.

South Ayrshire Council are seeking views from Parent Councils on school holidays for 2021/2022 and two options were put forward as detailed in the Report. It was felt generally by all present that Option 1 was the preferred choice and it was agreed that Euan Terras would submit this preference to County Buildings on behalf of the parent Council

Mark Anderson mentioned that the Mental Health Awareness Week had been particularly successful with all the activities well supported, especially the parents event.

As far as the recent inspection was concerned, Mark Anderson advised that the inspection had been the 'short model' and as such the inspection team had only been concentrating on a few criteria as opposed to other schools such as Belmont which had recently undergone a full inspection. As such, the inspectors had focussed quite narrowly on specific aspects of the school and the School Improvement Plan. The inspection appears to have been positive on the whole with any issues raised by the inspection team already featuring on the School Improvement Plan and that there were no issues raised that had not already been identified by the management team. The report would be available after Easter and could be discussed at the next meeting.

5. School Captain's Report

Scarlett and Abby were present at the meeting and reported that Eve and Scarlett had attended a Burns Supper with P7's as part of the transition programme, and which was very successful. Eve and Scarlett had both attended the South Ayrshire Education Authority meetings at County Buildings which they had found interesting. The Inspection Report for the school would be brought before the Education Authority later in the session.

The School Captains and S6 generally had been helping Mr McCabe with LGBT activities and various fund raising projects which would go towards the supporting of Mental Health Issues within the school. Activities would now be slowing down as the senior pupils prepared for their exams.

6 Susan Bell – National Parent Forum Scotland

Alastair invited Susan to give a presentation on the work of the NPFS and her own role within South Ayrshire. Each of the 32 local authorities in Scotland have a representative on the Forum and they have six meetings a year in Edinburgh along with numerous other smaller groups, forums and consultations. The main aim of NPFS is parental empowerment and to ensure that parents have a voice in the education system in Scotland. Susan gave details of the various local and national activities that she attends. Much of the details are available on their website – www.npfs.org.uk

She also mentioned the wide range of publications which are available from the forum and a number were available for the meeting to look at. In particular, the "In a Nutshell" series were particularly good.

7. AOCB

Mark Anderson advised that all staff had been advised to have login details for GLOW etc just in case home working became necessary due to the Coronavirus. He also mentioned that there were contingency plans being put in place by the SQA for the forthcoming exams. This also has potential repercussions for the upcoming exchange trips with France and also the trip to Iceland.

A question was raised about the number of fire alarms being set off deliberately by a pupil or pupils recently but this should now have been sorted.

It was also suggested if the music practice rooms could be moved whilst exams are ongoing in the main hall which is adjacent to the music department. The noise had distracted some pupils last year. Mr Anderson agreed to speak to Mrs Dippie, PT Music.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is 11th May 2020. (Subsequently cancelled due to Covid Lockdown)

Close

Alastair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.15pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair