

Prestwick Academy Parent Council

Annual General Meeting - Monday 9th September 2019

In attendance:

Mark Anderson, Acting Head Teacher;

Alastair McIntyre (Chair), Euan Terras (Secretary), Sheona Johnson, Debbie Campbell, Robert Neil, Jill Wright, Fiona Baird, Fiona Hainey, Elizabeth Cairns, Emma Boughen, Anne-Marie Tierney, Fiona Khaliq, Monique Morrison, Kevin Harkness, Euan Duncan, Jerry Ferguson, Sharon Graham, (Parents) Abby Harkness, Eve Kennedy & Scarlett Ross (School Captains), Cllrs Hugh Hunter and Margaret Toner (both Prestwick Ward).

Apologies from Provost Moonie, Lesley Reid & Andrea Hammond

Introduction

Alastair McIntyre welcomed everyone to the first Parent Council meeting of the new session which included our Annual General Meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th May 2019 which had been circulated by email in advance were approved. Proposed by Euan Duncan and seconded by Fiona Baird.

Report from Chair

Alastair reported that the activities he had been involved in since the last meeting included attendance at both the junior and senior prizegiving events. He had attended the senior prizegiving with Parent Council treasurer Alison McNeil. He would be attending the next meeting of Parent Council Chairs organised by South Ayrshire Council on 8 October and he would provide a report of that event at the next meeting. He also commented that following a discussion at the last meeting, the Parent Council might look at becoming more involved in fund raising activities within the school.

Treasurer's Report

With Alison McNeil having stepped down, there is currently a vacancy for the post of Treasurer although the Parent Council in recent years has really had no finances, with all fundraising events in the school being organised by the pupils.

Head Teacher's Report

Mark Anderson's Report is attached to these Minutes. Mr Anderson was delighted with the recent SQA exam results which were the best, or in some cases the second best results that the school has

ever had and he was especially pleased with these results given the staffing challenges which the school has faced over the last year.

In addition to the attached Report, Mr Anderson also complimented the success of the recent Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra Tour to Japan which had involved an impressive total of 15 Prestwick Academy pupils - almost 25% of the whole Tour group. He also congratulated those pupils who had taken part in the recent West of Scotland Schools Orchestras and Concert Band concerts in Glasgow.

Although not discussed at the meeting, Mr Anderson also made available to those present the Standards & Quality Report for 2018/2019 and also the School Improvement Plan for 2019/2020. He invited feedback on these before the end of September.

School Captains' Report

The School Captains were welcomed to the meeting. It was reported that the new School Captains had a variety of exciting new initiatives and ideas which would be introduced throughout the coming year.

The Captains reported the following:

- 1 Sanitary products would be introduced into all the female toilets in the school;
- 2 The S1 Induction, which involved S6 pupils too, was a success;
- 3 There will be fundraising for a music speaker to be installed in the cafeteria which will offer a variety of playlists during the week at lunchtimes;
- 4 S1/S6 Welcome Disco will be held on 10 September;
- 5 There will be a focus on mental health issues including "Motivational Monday"

Election of Office Bearers

The following were elected for the forthcoming session:

Chair	Alastair McIntyre	proposed by Euan Duncan and seconded by Jerry Ferguson
Secretary	Euan Terras	proposed by Alasdair McIntyre and seconded by Euan Duncan
Treasurer	Fiona Baird	proposed by Fiona Hainey and seconded by Monique Morrison
Vice Chair	Jerry Ferguson	proposed by Euan Terras and seconded by Euan Duncan

There had been no other nominations received for the posts.

Plan for the Year / Meeting Schedule 2019-20

Alastair reported that the meetings would continue to be held generally on the second Monday of the month with the schedule of dates as follows:-

11 th November 2019	13 th January 2020	
9 th March 2020	11 th May 2020	Date in June 2020 to be confirmed

These dates had already been provisionally posted on Facebook and would be put on the school website. A point was raised that the information on the Parent Council section of the school website was out of date and Euan Terras and Mark Anderson confirmed that this was in the process of being updated.

Alastair invited suggestions for events which could be held throughout the year or ideas for topics to be discussed at meetings and which might also include fund raising activities.

AOCB

A query was raised at the availability of contacting teaching staff on Results Day. Whilst Mr Anderson confirmed that members of the management team were in school that day to provide advice, he agreed that communications could be improved in order to provide pupils with reassurances on this day where required. There is also an SQA hotline available for pupils which will be advertised more widely next year.

A question was asked as to the availability of more lockers within the school and whether this is something the Parent Council could becoming involved in fund raising for. Due to space restrictions there are only approximately 300 lockers in the school, despite the number of pupils now exceeding 1200. Priority is given to senior pupils, on medical grounds and on occasions those involved in certain sports or musical activities. It was suggested that the Parent Council might hold a consultation with the pupils as to the use and allocation of lockers.

A question was raised as to the increasing reliance on using apps on pupils phone during certain subjects. There were implications for some pupils on the costs, data availability and of memory storage. It was confirmed that Wi-Fi was being introduced into all schools with a pilot project currently ongoing at Girvan Academy. It was hoped that the Wi-Fi would be in the school for use by the pupils before Christmas and this should alleviate the issues.

There was a discussion on school uniform. It was suggested that efforts continue to be made the school and the parents to encourage as many pupils as possible to wear school uniform and blazers in particular. The school has a small stock of blazers available for those who might not otherwise have one. The issue of storage of blazers and jackets etc was also discussed in connection with the earlier point concerning lockers.

Close

The next meeting of the year will be on Monday 11th November 2019 at 7pm in the school staff room.

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