

Campbeltown Grammar School Parent Council

Minutes of a meeting held in the school on Monday 14th January 2019 at 7pm

1. Present: Darlene Russell (chair), Alistair Kenny (vice-chair), Steve Davies (secretary), Mhairi McMillan. The Headteacher David Fyfe was in attendance.

2. Apologies: Lisa Blackstock, Lindsay Kenny, Clare Mead. Katuska Davies had indicated her wish to withdraw from the Parent Council.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting held on 10 September were approved, proposed by Alistair, seconded by Mhairi, with one addition:

It had been agreed to notify the local Councillors of the dates of our meetings; this was the practice in the past and they would sometimes be able to attend.

It was also noted that the meeting planned for 26 November took place as an informal conversation about strategy, without minutes being taken.

4. Matters arising: Parent Council name: it was agreed not to adopt anything other than "Parent Council" at least for the time being.

Halloween and Christmas events: David reported that these were a success, and expressed his thanks that members of Parent Council were able to help. Each event raised approx. £400 for the School Fund.

5. New members to group: There was a wide-ranging discussion about possible initiatives to attract more interest from parents.

Dates of meetings: to be publicised well in advance via Facebook and email. David confirmed that all parents can be emailed via Reception. Dates for this year were agreed: 18 Feb, 11 Mar, 6 May, 3 June.

A different venue for meetings might encourage more involvement. Alistair agreed to enquire re. availability and prices at venues such as the Town Hall and Argyll Hotel; if possible for 18 Feb.

Meetings with a specific theme were suggested, e.g. "How to help your child with..." Guest speakers would add weight to this initiative, also involvement and possible input from teaching staff and the Pupil Council. A theme of exam preparation / stress management was suggested for 11 Mar.

6. Headteacher's update: David reported on the strain felt throughout the school from some key staff absences. Hermitage Academy in Helensburgh was helping in various ways. Meanwhile the school was preparing for its review in March, following last year's inspection. He reported that collegiate meetings were taking place more regularly in an attempt to ensure follow-up in the classroom, and pupil focus groups gave detailed feedback. There was a general goal to identify and compile evidence that good progress is being made.

Meanwhile, the Council agreed that for inspectors to revisit the school after less than a year, particularly when there had not been an inspection for twelve years previously, seems both illogical and unfair.

David mentioned the challenge of declining standards in the wearing of school uniform. The Council agreed that standards should be maintained and sanctions applied as appropriate, since the appearance of pupils affects not only the reputation of the school but also the atmosphere of the learning environment.

7. The next steps: It was felt that this had been discussed under (5) above.

8. Any other business: None.

9. Date of next meeting: Monday 18 February at 7pm, venue to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.