

Campbeltown Grammar School Parent Council

Minutes of a meeting held in the Argyll Arms Hotel
on Monday 18th February 2019 at 7pm

- 1. Present:** Darlene Russell (chair), Alistair Kenny (vice-chair), Steve Davies (secretary), Lisa Blackstock, Joanna Holbrook, Lindsay Kenny, Carol McEachran, Lindsay McGeachy, Mhairi McMillan, Susan McMillan. The Headteacher David Fyfe was in attendance. Kirsty Campbell, Deputy Headteacher of Dunoon Grammar School was also present.
- 2. Apologies:** Clare Mead, Joanna McMillan, Councillor John Armour.
- 3. Minutes:** The minutes of the last meeting held on 14 January were approved, proposed by Darlene, seconded by Alistair.
- 4. Matters arising:** David was thanked for publicising the present meeting via Facebook, and the pupil bulletins were suggested as another means of publicity for future meetings.
- 5. Parental engagement strategy 2019-21:** Darlene informed the meeting that a useful document had been published by Argyll & Bute Council under this title, and it would be circulated. A questionnaire survey had been conducted among Chairs of Parent Councils, and the results of this were still awaited.
- 6. Proposals re. uniform policy:** David reported extensive discussions within the school, focusing on various elements of uniform and clothing: (a) Pupils could now wear *jackets* as far as their locker. (b) *Jeans/jeggings* were a difficult issue, and particularly faded or blue denims would be targeted. (c) *Trainers* with bright colours were not acceptable. (d) There was still uncertainty around the *blazer*, as what had been originally envisaged had not been enforced.

Several members of the Council commented on the issue of physical discomfort, e.g. caused by formal shoes or the blazer. For the shoes, it was suggested that plain black leather or canvas trainers be allowed. For the blazer, parents asked the school to allow more variety of style and material, including blazers bought elsewhere with the school badge sewn on. These changes would encourage many more parents to support the uniform policy. Meanwhile, the school was urged to be sensitive when identifying pupils without proper uniform.

It was agreed to look into possible sources of blazers and badges. Carol, Susan and Alistair offered to help with this, and Darlene would contact Clare.
- 7. Wearing of earphones in school:** David was asked how this was perceived and what the school's policy was. He reported that, in general, earphones were not to be seen in class; however, some teachers allowed them to be used from time to time, and the school regarded this as the individual teacher's professional judgment.
- 8. Parent Council Constitution:** It was confirmed that no old Constitution had been found, and Steve proposed that a new one be drawn up. He drew attention to the very useful guide published by Education Scotland. Darlene asked for anyone willing to take part to contact her by email.
- 9. Pupil Council and support:** David reported that the Pupil Council met every Friday at 9am, and commented that the new timetable would allow it more time. A division into junior and senior sections was being considered. Parents expressed a wish to offer support in whatever way possible, one way being to attend on some Friday mornings: Lisa, Carol, Alistair and Steve indicated their availability to do this.
- 10. Headteacher's update:** David had introduced Kirsty Campbell from Dunoon Grammar School, helping at CGS for three weeks with follow-up of inspection points. He explained that Deputy Headteacher Cathy Cameron was on secondment to the authority until the end of June. The school still faced a considerable challenge because of staff illness and absence, and in the Languages department was still relying heavily on

Hermitage Academy. David's own focus now was on curriculum and timetable. He reported that the recent staff days had been very profitable.

Parents were very appreciative of the online appointments process for parents' evenings, and the online subject options forms, both of which signalled a significant improvement.

11. Any other business: A question was raised about homework in the holidays, specifically an S1 pupil spending several days on an assignment that ran to 17 pages.

12. Date of next meeting: Monday 11 March at 7pm, in the Argyll Arms Hotel.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.