

FORFAR ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTE

Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 15 November 2016 at 7pm in the Training Suite

Present	Mel Lynch	Head Teacher
	Graeme Wallace	Depute Head Teacher
	Louise Nicoll	Chairperson
	Julie Brown	Vice Chairperson
	Gloria Garland	Treasurer
	Alison Neave	Secretary
	Mel Richards	
	Jane Maguire	
	Lesley Cromar	
	Jacqui Williamson	
	Julie Watson	
	Debbie Dallas	
	Alison Kydd	
	Frances Coutts	
	Victoria Alexander	
	Karen Smith	
Apologies	Gail McGuinness	Depute Head Teacher
	Karen Carle	
	Pam Davie	
	Suzanne Lawson	
	Caroline Crosby	

Welcome

Louise welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new school year. A quick introduction of everyone in attendance was done around the table.

Approval of Last Minute

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved by Frances Coutts and seconded by Julie Brown.

Matters Arising from previous Minutes

No issues

Items for discussion

1. Forfar Community Campus

Graeme Wallace gave a detailed update on the progress of the new campus. Plans were distributed and up to date photos were displayed to show the great progress being made and Graeme confirmed that everything was on schedule for opening in February.

Several points were raised and discussed with the committee:-

Graeme asked the committee their thoughts on the use of a school bell and it was decided that a bell would not be used and this would give the school children the opportunity to be responsible for their own time management. If this didn't work then using a bell would be considered.

Graeme confirmed that security would be of high importance within the school and there would be controlled access in all areas of the building. Concern was raised of the access areas when entering the school which is also the entrance to the swimming pool area. CCTV will be placed there and all entrances to school will also be monitored by teachers from PE Department and by the Leisure Centre staff. It was also confirmed that the school have been in talks with the police who have supported all the security that is being put in place.

Risk assessments have been undertaken due to the campus being open earlier and closing later and also weekends and Mr Lynch confirmed that the Health and Safety team are working on these assessments. Graeme also confirmed that as soon as a security issue wasn't working it would be changed immediately.

Exams would be taking place in the Theatre and the question was asked about the noise distracting the children as this area was next to the Sports Hall area. Graeme was confident this would not be an issue but until the first exam in this area happened, they would not know. Again this would be changed if this was an issue.

8 February 2016 – last day in old school

9 February 2016 – In Service Day

10 February 2016 - In Service Day

13 February 2016 – In Service Day

14 February 2016 – Additional School Closure Day

15 February 2016 – Additional School Closure Day

16 February 2016 – Pupils arrive in old school and will be decanted into new school during the day. This will be the first time the majority of the pupils will have been inside the new school.

18/19 February 2016 – Preview weekend of school and leisure centre

20 February 2016 – Campus open to the general public

A “Campus Advisory Board” is to be formed and Graeme advised that Parent Council and pupil representatives would be asked to come on board. These would be decided later in the term.

2. Digital Learning

The committee took part in a quiz which was done on their mobile phones and ipads and was a quick introduction to digital learning. Digital learning is going to be promoted throughout the school and pupils would use ipads in the classroom. A proposed timeline of the Digital Learning was issued and is attached. Graeme spoke of the progress currently being undertaken and once the new campus was opened this would speed up significantly as the majority of all classrooms would have wifi installed in them.

Issues regarding digital learning were raised:-

Wifi access at home is not always accessible and this could be an issue for homework.

Regarding the costs of purchasing these digital products for learning, Mr Lynch intimated that he would rather the school purchased these products for the pupils and in turn parents would agree to pay for full school uniform for their child.

The school is to be trialling ipads which cost around £700 each. Committee were told about the programmes that would be available for the pupils and it's all positive as far as the school are concerned.

3. Christmas Carol Concert

This is to be held on 14 December 2016 at St Margaret's Church. The Parent Council are to assist with four volunteers. Church are providing tea and coffee etc and school providing mince pies.

Volunteers - Lesley Cromar
Frances Coutts
Julie Brown
Alison Kydd

4. Staffing Matters

Malcolm Dowie formally retired on 31 October 2016.

Rhona Goss has transferred to Arbroath High School as Headteacher for a two year secondment.

Interviews for Acting Depute Headteacher had been held to cover Rhona Goss' secondment and Mr Lynch confirmed that Colin Agnew had been successful and would take the post up with immediate effect for 23 months.

AOCB

The school Twitter account will be updated with new members to gain access.

Louise provided leaflets from Blacks of Brechin bus company and asked Graeme and Mr Lynch if they could be considered when arranging bus hire for trips.

Skills for Work Energy provide an engineering course for girls and Louise enquired if the school would be interested in looking at some information on this. Louise confirmed she would provide information leaflets on this course and forward onto the school.

The new school restructured week would commence in August 2017. The school week will be a 33 week period and will finish on a Friday around 1.10pm (lunchtime). Mr Lynch confirmed that it still had not been decided what the extra three periods would be but information will be sent out to parents once this is decided.

Christmas Shopping night is taking place on 22 November 2016 from 6pm - 8pm. 20 stalls had booked spaces. A request was put that a text be sent out to remind all parents this was taking place.

Date of Next Meeting

31 January 2017 at 7pm

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

