

**FORFAR ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL**

**MINUTE**

**Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday, 5 September 2017 at 7.30pm**

<b>Present</b>	Kas Mohamed	Head Teacher
	Graeme Wallace	Depute Head Teacher
	Bob Baldie	
	Louise Nicoll	Chairperson
	Julie Brown	Vice Chairperson
	Gloria Garland	Treasurer
	Alison Neave	Secretary
	Mel Richards	
	Jane Maguire	
	Lesley Cromar	
	Karen Carle	
	Pam Davie	
	Caroline Crosby	
	Frances Coutts	
	Jill MacDairmid	
	Victoria Alexander	
	Ruth Kelly	
	Carla Rodriguez	
	Alan Pirie	
	Gillian Cormie	

**Apologies**           None

**Welcome and Apologies**

Louise welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new school year and introduced Kas Mohamed who was attending his first meeting as Head Teacher to everyone in attendance.

**Approval of Last Minute**

The Minutes of the previous Ordinary Meeting held in June 2017 were approved by Julie Brown and seconded by Gloria Garland.

### **Matters Arising**

The only matter discussed which arose from the previous meeting was regarding pupil lockers. Graeme Wallace informed the meeting that keys would be issued to pupils very soon and that they would be offered to the Senior pupils first and then cascaded down the years. There will be a change of £5 per year and this deposit was non refundable.

### **Staffing**

Mr Mohamed introduced himself to the committee and gave a brief outline of his previous experiences in the various schools he had worked in and explained his future plans and hopes for the school and the school community. Mr Mohamed starts his position as Head Teacher on 18 September 2017.

Mr Wallace informed the meeting on the current staffing issues and vacancies.

Gail McGuinness is on long term sick. To cover her position, Mrs Irving, Mrs Scott, Mrs Bell and Mr McGhee had been approached to act up into her position. This position will be filled by these teachers until Mrs McGuinness returns to work.

There were various teacher vacancies in several departments and these were to be advertised in the forthcoming weeks. Mr Wallace was hopeful they would receive applications for all these posts.

### **Communication to Parents**

Comments were made regarding the lack of communication about Mr Lynch retiring and letting parents know about the new Head teacher being appointed. There was also comment that there had been inaccuracies in communication that were being sent out to parents. Graeme acknowledged there was issues with communication and that this was trying to be ironed out. He stressed that there had been a lack of returned completed information sheets that had been issued to parents asking for email addresses and mobile telephone numbers and this had not helped matters. There was discussion regarding the best ways to communicate and this matter would be carried forward to the next meeting. It was confirmed that Shona Page updates the school website with copies of the Parent Council Minutes. However it was unclear whether the handbook on the website was up to date and whether there was a bullying policy. Graeme Wallace was to check and inform at next meeting.

A copy of the Parent Council Constitution was to be sent out to the Committee by Alison. Louise asked if the Committee could look at this and if anyone had any comments that this could be discussed at the next meeting.

## **Activities for Friday afternoons**

A question was asked regarding where do you find out what is available for pupils to do after the school finishes on a Friday lunchtime?

Graeme confirmed that a program of events was being posted onto the school website this week. There was a small charge for participating in some of the activities that were being organized by Angus Alive.

## **AOCB**

A new committee member (Karen Law) asked the committee if the school would be interested in showing screenings of a film regarding embracing body images and the social impact this can have. This is something Karen is highly involved with and was keen to get the school involved.

The film is targeted for 10 years upwards.

Both Mr Mohamed and Mr Wallace agreed this was something they would like to take forward and promote this within the school as this was at present a national issue. Positive feedback given back by the committee. Karen was to supply the link to Mr Wallace and he would take this forward and liaise directly with Karen with any questions the school had.

Clothing Bank - Graeme advised that this was being well supported and was delighted with the response by the parents.

Alison Kydd raised a point regarding Crowd Funding. She informed the meeting that she could arrange for someone from Angus Council to attend one of our committee meetings to give a talk on how Crowd Funding could benefit the school. Alison would let committee know at next meeting of suitable dates.

Graeme confirmed that the Golden Ticket and Rewards system that had been in place in previous years would be going ahead in the forthcoming school year.

It was confirmed that the Ipads were going to be distributed to all 3<sup>rd</sup> year pupils next week. Parents and pupils were to attend the school to collect these and sign a disclaimer.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

14 November 2017 at 7pm.