

## FORFAR ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

### MINUTE

#### Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday, 14 November 2017 at 7pm

#### **Present**

Kas Mohamed	Head Teacher
Graeme Wallace	Depute Head Teacher
Rhonda McFarlane	Angus Council
Louise Nicoll	Chairperson
Julie Brown	Vice Chairperson
Gloria Garland	Treasurer
Alison Neave	Secretary
Mel Richards	
Jane Maguire	
Lesley Cromar	
Karen Carle	
Pam Davie	
Jill MacDairmid	
Alan Pirie	
Donna Taylor	
Emma Gillies	
Jennifer Mitchell	
Alison Kydd	
Karen Smith	
Jacqui Williamson	

#### **Apologies**

Frances Coutts  
Victoria Alexander  
Gillian Cormie  
Carla Rodriguez

#### **Welcome and Apologies**

Louise welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

#### **Approval of Last Minute**

The Minutes of the previous Meeting held in September 2017 were approved by Jacqui Williamson and seconded by Donna Taylor.

## **Matters Arising from Previous Meeting**

- Locker keys had been given out to all Senior Pupils. There were spare lockers once all senior pupils had received them and these spare ones will be cascaded to the lower school once agreed who would get them.
- Gail McGuinness was returning to school on a phased return. P Irving and S Scott would continue to cover her post in the short term.
- Mr Wallace gave an update on new teacher posts which have now been filled.
- Alison had emailed a copy of the Constitution to the Committee for their information. Louise had received no comments regarding its content.
- Mr Wallace had commented that there had been a good uptake on the Friday activities that were being offered to pupils when the school finished at lunchtime. This would be monitored for the next meeting.
- Mr Mohamed commented there had been a good response to the communication survey recently issued to parents. He confirmed he would discuss further any relevant comments regarding the Parent Council at the next meeting.

## **Items for Discussion**

### **1. Crowdfund Angus Update**

Rhonda McFarlane from Angus Council attended the meeting and gave a detailed talk to the committee about the Crowdfund Angus project and what the Parent Council could gain from undertaking this Project. She advised that it was a donation based project and informed the group of the best ways to run this to gain maximum impact.

Rhonda was to forward further information and email links regarding the project and Alison agreed to email all the committee so that they could read this for themselves.

### **2. School Trips/Halloween**

Mr Mohamed gave his response to comments that had been circulating regarding school trips and why Halloween dress-up day had been cancelled. He confirmed that school trips would still be happening, but in the future trips would be undertaken when no exams were taking place. It was just a case of getting the balance right for the school, the teachers and the pupils.

### **3. Weekend Homework**

A question was raised regarding homework given out to be done over the weekend. This would be looked into for years 1 – 6 and gauged if appropriate. It was felt that

more study time should be given to 4<sup>th</sup> year pupils for exams. Mr Wallace advised that study timetables would be done for 4<sup>th</sup> year pupils. There was discussion that some 4<sup>th</sup> year pupils just don't know how to study. This would be looked into and the school would try to help the pupils with their studying time.

#### **4. Swimming**

There was discussion regarding the pupils doing swimming as part of the curriculum. Mr Mohamed wanted the pupils to get full advantage of having the pool at the Campus and wanted it to be used as much as possible. There was a comment made that perhaps there is an issue with the boys and girls having swimming together and awkwardness of being together. This might be looked at going forward to see if this was an issue and if there can be separate teaching in the pool.

There was comment from a parent who had an issue regarding her child who was unable to swim due to being ill and being pulled up in front of the class. This was something that the Headteacher would look into and to make sure this didn't happen again.

#### **5. Carol Concert**

This is to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at the East & Old Parish Church. Louise Nicoll was the point of contact for this event. Teas/coffees and mince pies would be served after the concert by some of the committee. Once Louise had confirmed the times etc, Alison would inform all the helpers.

#### **6. Eibhern Ceilidh**

This is to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018 at the school.

#### **7. Behaviour outside school**

Louise advised she had received complaints regarding pupils hanging around houses in Hanick Terrace who were rude and disruptive. Mr Mohamed informed the committee that new behavioural policies were being put in place and that the pupils would be advised of these at Assembly next week. If anyone is threatened by the pupils bad behaviour then they should contact the police directly and not the school.

It was also noted that there was to be tighter rules regarding pupil absences. Texts were to be sent out every period a pupil is late to the parent if the school are not informed of the absence.

#### **AOCB**

- Parent Council Representatives Meeting – Frances Coutts attended this meeting and provided an update for Louise to read out to the committee.

- Mr Mohamed advised that online payments will be put in place shortly for all payments including lunches and all school trips and that payments will not be received now by the front office staff. Letters regarding this will be sent out next week.
- Louise had received a letter from John Swinney. Alison was to email a copy of this to all committee members.

**Date of next meeting**

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 at 7pm.

**Date of Next Meeting**

14 November 2017 at 7pm.