

Kemnay Academy Parent Council (KAPC)

Meeting Date: Tuesday 7th May

Meeting Venue: Staff Room, Kemnay Academy

Present: Alan Smith, Stuart Cambell, Audrey Henderson, Michelle Meyer, Catriona Skinner.

Also in attendance: Lizbeth Paul (Headteacher), Sue Wainman (Kemnay Community Council), Fiona Allen (Principal Teacher Guidance), Hasiba Jawad (Maths) Cllr Martin Ford.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies received from Bob Jones, Ava Rennie, Carol Sim, Fiona Cooper

2. Approval of Previous Minutes & Housekeeping

Minutes of meeting from the Parent Council meeting held 26th March were proposed by Michelle Meyer, seconded by Catriona Skinner.

Letter on Teacher Shortages: Letter was sent. Awaiting response from NPFS rep and MSP.

Education Officers (Quality Improvement and Head Teachers):

The schools allocated to Quality Improvement Officers has changed, in line with a general drive from Aberdeenshire to empower schools to do more at School level, rather than referring back to Aberdeenshire Education Service.

Mrs Paul explained that there is information received from Aberdeenshire Education service and this was to be sent out to parents. Mrs Paul to confirm if and when the leaflets from the council were to be issued to the parents

Aberdeenshire Council Update:

Councillor Martin Ford briefly explained that there have been several budget meetings with the council and there had to be necessary savings of approximately £20 million. The implications of this are a large number of cuts in the council budget. Some of these will be within the education system.

Parents Charter and Accountability

A leaflet entitled Parents Charter and Accountability was shared with Parent Councils on the 15th of April.

It was discussed what impact this was supposed to have, and it became clearer that this was part of the wider umbrella of parental engagement with schools and education generally.

Post Meeting Note: Replacement leaflet - Parents as Partners - was circulated to Parent Councils, 24th May. Hopefully ready for distribution in time for the next meeting, or sooner.

3. Parent Forum Communication

Staffing - Briefing from Mrs Paul

Mrs Paul give a general update in respect of staffing levels and those teachers moving to and from the school. The details are to be confirmed, once the normal background checks have been completed.

The recruitment includes a modern language teacher (French and Spanish-speaking).

Probationers have been recruited to Music and English departments.

Mrs Paul confirmed that they had asked for fewer probationary teachers this year due to the ability to retain staff and once the above roles have been filled the school would for the moment have a full compliment of staff

Building / Infrastructure Updates -

Canteen

Mrs Paul advised that the canteen was being redesigned. There had been a large amount of funds provided and these are being spent upgrading the kitchen. There will be a subway style system sandwich area along with more seating. The projected school role will be 930.

Wifi & Ipads

There is to be a new server system for the school and for staff and this would be cloud-based. Homework will be visible within the cloud, and this should improve pupils access.

There is to be an iPad pilot scheme, this is in line with a digital strategy for learning. Initially there will be approximately 40 iPads available for this pilot scheme. The aim would be to have one iPad being shared and used safely by five pupils. Each pupil will have their own login details and therefore will be as if they have their own iPad and there should be no issue with any cross over in users data.

One question raised by the parent council was with regard to Blue Screen effect on the children's health. Between using iPhones iPads computer consoles at home and then increasing the amount of time spent on their iPads at school what effect will this have on them stop there after health and well-being was discussed and agreed this would be promoted.

Senior Prom

The school prom was discussed and Mrs Paul advised that this was a success. Norwood House as a venue was very good.

S6 Final Day at School - Behaviour

The S6s' final day at school, known by pupils as "muck up day" was discussed.

Mrs Paul and Mrs Allen explained the how the behaviour of small number of the S6 pupils in and around the school during the day was disruptive to teaching and learning. The younger pupils were out watching what was happening with senior pupils and changed their behaviour to mimic this.

In the course of lunchtime some senior pupils/former pupils were stopped by the police. This caused a large number of younger pupils to be drawn towards the road. Due to the numbers involved, and in an open public space, the situation became quite concerning and a risk to pupil safety. There is no easy solution to this matter. Senior pupils see this as a right of passage, but it does have a real impact on the rest of the school, for whom it is another normal working day. Some pupils get very stressed and anxious about it and can't manage to get into school.

To address the matter the school will seek to increase parental awareness and encourage parental engagement in view of the risks and consequences to individuals for this type of behaviour.

6. Community Engagement

Alan Smith discussed his work's (NOV) project which the school and NOV were working on. A timetable which had been set up for the project next year for pupils in technical roles, in teams with a kind of Dragons den type idea.

Mrs Paul also advised that there were a couple of other companies that she had been in conversation with in regard to working with the school - new business link with Acumen.

6. PTA Update

Carol unable to attend, no update available.

7. Correspondence

None.

8. Any Other Business

Videos in Class

A parent has raised an issued advising that they were concerned about the amount of DVDs that her child was watching in classes during the school week.

Mrs Paul explained that she has had conversations with staff about this and that it should not be happening. However, in some circumstances, such as staff shortages, it has been used. The specific issue relating to this matter had been addressed by the school. New cover materials had been sourced to deliver better learning experiences for pupils.

8. Next Meeting

The next KAPC meeting will be held on **Tuesday 25th June starting at 7.00pm.**

The meeting will include the AGM.

Any exceptional agenda items to be sent to the PC email address in advance.