

Tuesday 6th February 2018 - Parent Council Meeting

Attendance - Robert brown, Shona Watson, Adele Young, Carol Leitch, Elaine Taylor, Agnes Nicol, Maureen Guthrie, Helen Morton, Martin Robertson, Michelle Paterson, Caroline Devine.

Apologies - Hilary Sharpe, Susan Robertson, Trudy Morrison, Gillian Steele, Fiona McKinnon, Chris Johnstone.

Minutes of the previous meeting reviewed. Martin talked through the minutes. No matters arising. Updates on appointments - Amanda McPheator has been appointed as Acting DHT until June 2018. Amanda is DHT of Afton.

Language Teacher post - no applicants have applied. Mrs Lampard will stay until end of June 2018. Hoping to advertise a post which a probationer could apply for and also request a probationer for the school next year in case we do not manage to appoint someone permanently.

New business Teacher - Appointed Claire Livingstone, previously at Dumfries.
Principal Teacher Vacancy - literary, numeracy and nurture - There are 6 applicants and will interview after the February Holidays. Likely to be in place by April.
Mary Gladwell appointed to Community Worker role and already working with Children to improve their attainment. Would like to continue this next year.

Head Teacher update

New School update - School names have now been confirmed.
The next stage is looking at the curriculum, there has been a joint meeting with both senior leadership teams and the model for First year will remain very similar.
There has been a disagreement around the 2nd year model and no agreement was made. Children and pupil councils have been consulted. Once this is decided then we would like to implement the model this year in both schools as the children in these years by 2020 will be on the same path.
Martin asked for feedback from all on the S2 Curriculum, this has to be back in by Friday. On second in service day the staff from both schools will be working together.

Prelims for S4 – S6 have just been completed.

26th Feb - school reports for S4

6th March - Parents evening

S4 – S6 Mentoring

We have identified 36 kids who would benefit from additional support.

The timetable is a useful tool to help support the children.

Study skills workshops will be put on to support them as much as possible. We are not putting pressure on, more than providing support.

Suggestion from Adele that this could benefit from 3rd year.

Martin and some of the DHTs will be supporting 5th and 6th years. Mrs Cook and Mrs Macara will continue the S4 programme.

Adele raised that on History after school supported study last Monday, they did go but then got in to trouble the next day because they did not show up. Support study for the other subjects on Wednesday, Thursday.

Martin will check with Mr Lynch.

5th and 6th year will get working level report week beginning 5th March 2018.
3rd year options are out now and being finalised.
4th and 5th options will be out next.

LGBT history month - this has been reflected on our website. There is an assembly this week around bullying and homophobic bullying.

Ski trip in Pila this week. 20 children are away.

Holocaust memorial - Iona Rodger delivered a great presentation to 4th, 5th and 6th years.

Right respecting school - bag packing appeal. These will be sent to Malawi. This is being covered at Assemblies. Need 2nd hand backpacks.

A letter will be sent home with list of items to be collected until May 2018.

Bike maintenance project - working with a group of boys. The launch was supported with £3000 from Princes Trust and DYW Ayrshire. Each child got £300 for safety equipment. STV have filmed the project. Hoping to extend this next year.

Now looking at developing a Barista qualification and a nail bar course. A lot of kids would benefit from having engagement of vocational qualifications.

Parents workshop on 13th December 2017...invited children of all parents of Children who were studying 5 subjects in 5th and 6th year. Only 13 turned up, will look to do this earlier next year. Christmas Concert and Carol Concert went well.

Right Respecting School Programme update - Mrs Devine

Started the journey towards this 2 years ago. The school has achieved Bronze level and now working towards the Silver.

The charity work is a big part of this. Now raised around £9000 for Mary's Meals over 2 years. It raises awareness of individual rights. Coffee morning before Christmas, funds from this went to Cash for Kids. Looking to working with Cumnock Academy to see how we can move forward together to promote Children Rights.

Shared The Respecting School Charter which is now in place in the School.

Mrs Devine took the group to see Rights Respecting School wall on first floor.

Questionnaire completed by the parents.

Michelle Patterson, Inclusion Hub

Now starting to embrace the wider school. Presentation on the Hub delivered.

Background is primary trained and has worked in school in Kilmarnock.

Current appointment for 20 months.

2 secondary schools are piloting the inclusion hub, Auchinleck and Doon Academy.

9 young people are assigned to the hub with 8 engaged.

Increase of 16.5% in attendance already from these children.

None of the children have been excluded. None in December at all and only 8 from the Summer. Reduced from 20 exclusions for the same period last year.

P7 transition - covered the process for this year. Enhanced transition on 22 Feb, 19 Mar, 26th Apr to support children who would benefit from additional support.

Science Fair - this is a programme after school 6pm - 7.30pm

13th March 2018. Need a parent to be a part of the judging panel. Message will be sent out.

2nd Year parents night 24th April 2018.

School Buses issue during the recent weather issues. Martin clarified what happened on the first day. On the 2nd day it was a mistake that the message was sent saying the school was closed, then a correction was sent out. 30 staff in school. Phone call from parent at 8.30am saying no buses. On phoning Liddell buses not sent out. 2 providers did not confirm to the central office they were not sending buses. This will be raised with the companies at a future meeting with the Transport Manager for EAC. Any decision to close schools in the morning will be taken before 8.00 am and communicated to parents. This may be too late for some families whose pick up is at 7.45 am. Martin will raise this with the Head of Education.

Next meeting Thursday 3rd May 18