

Auchinleck Academy Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting 5th June 2019

Present: E Neil, M Robertson, R McCaffrey, S Robertson, H Sharpe, M Guthrie, C Leitch

Agenda Items

1. **Welcome & Apologies** – E Neil welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from K McEwan and C Johnstone. E Neil offered to both chair and minute the meeting.
2. **Update from Angie McDonald (School Mental Health Nurse)** – Angie delivered a presentation and summarised her role in school. Anxiety is the biggest presenting factor and as a former CAMHS worker, she has provided different training to both staff and students. Guidance staff have been trained in LIAM (Low Intensity Anxiety Management). The impact has been that there have been no referrals made to CAMHS since Angie's appointment in school. Future plans include more suicide awareness work, developing a mental health guide and setting up an anxiety management group. Angie will also be delivering parent workshops over the summer.
3. **Minutes of previous meeting** – The senior Prom was successful but wet! M Robertson advised of staffing changes since the last meeting. H Sharpe proposed the minutes and S Robertson seconded.
4. **Head Teacher Update** – M Robertson advised that there has been several changes in staffing since Christmas.

Rachel McCaffrey has been appointed as Acting DHT (Mrs Macara is currently on maternity leave).

5 staff left and they have not been replaced. Following a recruitment drive there will be 5 Probationer Teachers starting in August – 2 in English, 2 in Chemistry and 1 in PE.

Mr Richardson has been appointed Acting PT Science and will remain in post until the merger.

Mr Kennedy will join as a Geography teacher. Ms Thomson and Mr Elliott will be in History and Modern Studies and Mr Parker will stay in Music. All staff are on temporary contracts.

M Robertson is seeking to appoint a 0.6 HE teacher and a Maths post has been advertised. He is hoping that the school will be fully staffed in August.

Trips – several trips ran this session with M & D's being the most recent. There will be a joint trip with Cumnock Academy going to Paris in the last week of term.

The new timetable started early (13 May). The Grease production will be taking place on 18 – 20th June. The National Theatre of Scotland are in school leading a project called "Theatre without walls" and have provided workshops on circus and trapeze skills. There will be a final performance over 3 days in the last week of term with national coverage in the media.

Prize Giving will take place on 13th June.

Prelim results analysis was positive and the SQA exam diet went well.

5. **School Captains Update** – the captains have now left school and new captains will be appointed following an interview process.

6. **Uniform Swap Shop** – S Robertson spoke about a project which has worked successfully in another authority where parents could come in and exchange items of uniform. M Robertson informed that the school and the Community Link Worker are currently exploring how this could be done sensitively. The Boswell Centre was suggested as a possible secure venue.
Both schools have agreed that it will be a black blazer when they merge so that badges can be easily changed.
7. **RespectMe (Scotland's Anti-Bullying Service)** – E Neil attended a workshop and a Parent Council Steering Group meeting about this. She explained the initiative and that the authority is hoping to set up a parents working group to take the project forward in East Ayrshire. PC Baillie is also keen to be involved and this is something that perhaps could be developed with both schools working together. E Neil distributed copies of the RespectMe information guides.
8. **School Improvement Plan 2018-19 Evaluation** – Literacy and numeracy results are among the highest in East Ayrshire.
9. **School Improvement Plan 2019-20 Consultation** – there are 4 improvement priorities. The School Student Council has been consulted as well. M Robertson issued copies and invited PC members to comment and make suggestions. One suggestion was even earlier intervention with coping with examinations, prior to the prelims and perhaps as early as S3. There will be a separate plan for the school merger and it has still to be confirmed. Career pathways was raised as a priority. (C Leitch left at this point.)
10. **Pupil Equity Fund Update** – M Robertson advised that the PEF budget was down from £101K to £113K. He provided a breakdown. £13K was allocated to departments. There will be a joint PEF budget for the 2 schools of roughly £220K.
11. **New Campus Update** – The Head of Campus post has been readvertised. The HTs of both schools will be meeting regularly to advance plans. S3 is a priority so that a curriculum pathway is agreed. The same curriculum model is now in place in both schools albeit with some different options and an integration model is being developed. Students have been visiting the new site and there will be a SLT visit before the end of term with staff visits in the pipeline. Building work is on schedule and the new school will open in August 2020.
12. **AOB** – Audit for Treasurer's Report. E Neil will contact K McEwan about banking. Unfortunately some students did not manage to get their photos taken at the recent prom. The date of the next meeting will be confirmed in the new term. E Neil will contact Linda Robertson, Chair of Cumnock Academy PC to arrange a joint meeting.