



Kilmarnock Academy

Parent Council Meeting

4th November 2024

Conference Room, Kilmarnock Academy

Present: David Rose, Angela Brownlie, Andrea Mossie, Dylan McClue, Stephen Coyle, Donna Rae, Aileen Baillie, Jen Graham, Julie Connor, Fiona Anderson, Laura McChristie, Elaine Paton, Margaret Black, Allan Reid, Graham Boyd (Councillor)

Apologies: Lynsey Kerr, Clare Purewal

Welcome and Apologies – Stephen

SC welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies for those not in attendance. DR introduced DMcC to the attendees who took them through the Improving attendance strategy alongside AB. DR explained that attendance is important to everyone in the school and has multiple impacts on young people when they don't attend. Although not a new challenge and country wide levels had been falling year on year prior to covid, however since covid school attendance is down 10% compared to levels seen prior. Attendance is a key focus for everyone in the school but in the wider community and country. DMcC is now the principal teacher of attendance. With weekly monitoring of data at various splits all the way to individual level. DMcC explained the impact that a drop of just 5% in one session can mean a young person misses 60 lessons, but more impactful was that a young person who attended school at 90% every year from P1 to S3 that was the same as missing an entire academic year. There is also a direct link to attainment levels with a 3% decrease in post-16 qualification tariff scores.

The attendances asked DMcC some questions around lateness, young people attending other activities organised by the school which were then covered in more depth. This topic has been covered at assemblies, within PSE courses, surveys to the pupils amongst other ways. The school have just launched a table of top classes/most improved/best timekeeping initiative which will see rewards such as red coins, certificates, praise and positive texts. Parents have also been engaged with the recent survey, new attendance letters and termly attendance updates planned. Once the survey has closed the results will be shared via the school app.

Consider processes to ensure tracking is understood (Interactive) – Andrea Mossie

AM took the parents through the current tracking reports for both phases within the school. During this interactive session AM asked us to use the schools "Think Pink, go Green" initiative with the tracking reports sent home throughout the year. In smaller groups we reviewed the content and provided feedback on both. If you don't know about "Think Pink, go Green" is why not ask your young person what it means.

School update – David Rose

The local authority learning visit took place last week and went extremely well. DR expressed thanks to those on the parent council that assisted. This was the first time the school had external scrutiny since the merger and were complimented on their achievements. The official report is not yet available but will be published when received. DR took the attendees through some key highlights that he had been given, that found corroborated that lessons were good, very good and only a small number were satisfactory. Those in the satisfactory category have already been reviewed and understood to be from the NQT cohort, with work already underway to help those individuals moving forward. One of the significant strengths highlighted was leadership of change, with the SLT demonstrating strong leadership and that everyone feels part of a family ethos. Inspectors found our young people welcoming, mannerly and articulate. A strong sense of inclusion

that drives the work in the school and a calm purposeful environment. The voice of the parent was also clear with parents feeling young people are supported and listened to, with any issues dealt with promptly. Support staff were noted to be strong and key players within the school. As always there are a few things to work on which were centred around continuing to develop learning techniques and assessment within the Kilmarnock Standard and considering increasing provision around additional support within all lessons if required. The report highlighted no areas where action was required, which is an excellent way to end the first external review.

Christmas Fayre – David Rose

Breaking from tradition, DR explained that we will have a non-uniform day on 22nd November with donations for the raffle/bottle stall being made. Please note that any alcoholic donations must be brought to the school office by a parent/carer over the age of 18.

The Christmas Fayre will be on Thursday 5th December and any donations for the bottle stall, raffle prizes or chocolate tombola would be appreciated. Currently there are 29 paying stall owners including 6 school stalls by our young people.

During the meeting the parent council prepared tickets for the bottle stall, which proves very popular every year. Final setup has been agreed for Wednesday 4th December by parent council members.

AOB – David Rose

Litter in NFL area

Councillor GB explained that each month New Farm community council do a litter pick around the area and its been noted that during school term the amount of litter in the area increases considerably. DR acknowledges that this issue isn't only around the campus but in other areas of the town/schools as well. DR has already replied to the secretary of the community council with his response detailed below.

Thank you for reaching out on an issue that raises its head from time to time and indeed is a problem for most, if not all, local areas where there are large academies in proximity. New Farm is not unique in that sense, but I also agree it is not something we should accept as the norm and we should endeavour to tackle this anti-social matter collectively as a team.

To that end you have my full support and I thank you for bringing this to our attention at this time.

Please see my response to the matters raised below.

We can see what response you get from others and the impact of any actions. Sometimes the weather affects the situation too as too. With the colder days and more inclement weather the kids tend to stay on campus more.

i hope the below helps and if you can think of any other supports please let me know.

Thank you for working with us on this. 😊

In addition to this as a parent council we support this direction and have also added a message to our new X page (formally known as Twitter) which can be found under username KilmarnockAcaPC on the platform.

Instrumental music service

Attendees were reminded that the instrumental music service update is available on the school app, which sees this service move under East Ayrshire Leisure Trust rather than education. This service will continue to operation in its current form at present. The announcement can be found [here](#).

Removal of non-statutory subsidised transport

Kilmarnock Academy Parent council wishes to express their complete disappointment at the removal of non-statutory subsidised transport. Despite challenging this for over a year, trying to work with ARA and EAC to engage in conversation and suggest alternative proposals the decision was made earlier last month. Councillor GB highlighted that there are a number of concerns still outstanding, in particular the lighting levels at Assloss Road descending into the Dean Park. He highlighted there is also a national speed limit on that road which needs to be considered. The parent council asked Councillor GB to ask ARA

and EAC to ensure that every family that is currently or just about to be impacted by this change is communicated to via letter.

During discussions it was highlighted that some people do live at the 3 mile mark or just past 3 miles from the school and as such should be entitled to transportation as a statutory right. If you are such a family, can you please either contact ARA, EAC or Councillor GB if you are unsure of what is happening in your situation. Again this appears to be a failing on ARA and EAC behalf around confusion.

A number of members of the parent council watched the cabinet meeting record that decided the outcome of these changes. It was noted that there is a parent vote, which we believe is currently occupied by someone who may no longer have young people of school age. As a parent council we weren't approached by our representative to gauge our opinions, and we believe other parent councils are in the same position. We have emailed Councillor Graham Barton who has voting rights on cabinet about this to understand what the process is for such a critical voting space.

The next parent council meeting will be held on Monday 2nd December at 6.30pm in the conference room, Kilmarnock Academy. If you would like to join the parent council, please come along on the evening.

If you have anything you'd like to bring to the attention of the parent council, please get in touch by emailing kilmarnockacademyparentcouncil@gmail.com , you can also keep up to date with updates on the Kilmarnock Academy Parent Council Facebook page or on our new X page KilmarnockAcaPC (formally Twitter).