

WILLIAMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 3rd October 2016, 7pm

Minutes

DRAFT

Present :	Simon Cunningham	Felicity Rose	Clare Jeffrey
	Melanie Whyte (Vice-chair)	Michael Foley	Angela Fraser
	Cllr Ralph Robertson	Mary Chau	Steve Galloway
	Cress Maher	Karen Hussain	Judith Currie
	Ailsa Crum	Teresa Forbes	Jen Dickson
	Roddy Wilson	Bobby Caldwell (Chair)	

In Attendance : Willie Inglis (HT)

1 Introduction

2 Apologies

Shabana Noor, Abid Mohammed, Cllr Stewart Miller.

3 Minutes of and points arising from the previous meeting

No points arising not covered elsewhere - August minutes approved.

4 Election of Office Bearers

BC introduced the Annual Report, highlighting some of the work of the Parent Council over the past year including the projects with the Pupil Council and other perhaps less well-known aspects of the Parent Councils activities.

As is customary, the existing Office Bearers, Bobby Caldwell, Chair & Melanie Whyte, Vice- chair, stood down and nominations were invited from the members present.

Chair – Malcolm Foley was proposed by Ailsa Crum, seconded by Karen Hussain. There being no other nominations Malcolm Foley was elected Chair.

Vice-chair – Melanie Whyte was proposed by Karen Hussain, seconded by Clare Jeffrey. There being no other nominations Melanie Whyte was re-elected Vice-chair.

With the new Chair's agreement BC continued to chair for the duration of the meeting.

5 Headteacher's Report & Staff Report - Willie Inglis

WI referred to a number of school activities & trips (more detail on the website)

- Maths Dept – S1 Parents event – explanation of current methodology - very good
- S1 – S3 study skills evening
- Parent Conference
- S1 disco
- The Wall fundraiser – raised ~£6,000
- Lochgilphead

As had been suggested at the previous meeting, WI had consulted staff with regard to ideas where the PC could provide support.

- Developing the Young Workforce
- mock interviews/ jobs / applications / university applications
- CV writing
- Bring A Parent to Work Day
- Business Breakfast
- career talks / visits / subject related
- promoting parental events e.g. biology & chemistry night?
- Environmental Group – external seating in school? Funding?
write to B&Q? / Tesco? / Scottish Power? / Whitelee Wind Farm

6 Flying Start – Karen Hussain

Several people attended a meeting with Marc Falconer & Laura Harkins to discuss plans for FS for this year.

A newsletter has been published on the website; will need to redo flyers to incorporate change to new email address, add 4th option box; offer opportunity to sign up via website?

Script for recruitment at Careers Evening? – as per email

A number of suggestions were made as to how to raise awareness of FS and increase participation – use SurveyMonkey to communicate; use the PTA Facebook page; use the school's email list; idea of 'speed dating' employers for S4/S5; also important to let people know that it is OK not know what you want to do!

Issue of 'quality control' raised – just because someone volunteers for FS it does not mean that they are the best person to do that. Raises further questions of managing expectations of volunteers.

KH to arrange a meeting to take these things forward.

7 Pupil Council projects – Bobby Caldwell

Given that a new member of staff – Laura Harkins – has recently been appointed to this post, BC to email seeking meeting to discuss activity for this year, copy MF & SC.

8 Scottish Government School Governance Review – Ailsa Crum

The review is seeking the views of parents on how education is run to ensure that it delivers excellence and equity for all children and young people.

AC distributed and spoke to a summary paper. AC has also signed up for one of the public sessions (Ministerial Engagement Sessions) on 10th November.

All agreed that it was important to hear and understand the views of the school.

WI distributed copies of the formal consultation document 'Empowering Teachers, Parents And Communities To Achieve Excellence And Equity In Education'.

(Link for parents to view document & contribute online?)

The PC agreed that it is crucial that parents hear and understand the views of the school.

- do parents know enough to contribute in an informed manner?
- much is still unclear e.g. finance, role of regional boards

Perhaps the PC should ask for evidence that the proposed changes will achieve the desired improvement in attainment.

Will this review also require amendments to the Parental Involvement Act?

This item will be carried forward to the next meeting.

9 AOCB

i) Parent Council Grant - £755 in 2016/17; must be spent by end of March '17; nothing has yet been spent; revise FS flyers? public speaking training? Options & ideas for next meeting.

ii) SG raised two points - reports of an incident in the PE changing room? WI said that this was not a serious incident; any concerns parents have should be raised immediately with school staff by phone; not appropriate for discussion at the Parent Council.

Concerns raised with regard to credit card charges on school payments system - currently Payments4Schools, changing to ParentPay - of 2% or £5.

PC requires clarity on existing situation.

This is linked to a further query regarding the costs of school trips.

This item will be carried forward to the next meeting.

iii) Minutes - it was suggested and agreed, in principle, that a rota be established with each member taking turns to record the proceedings of meetings.

Dates of Future Meetings

14th November 2016

9th January 2017

27th February 2017

24th April 2017

5th June 2017