Woodfarm High School

Parent Partnership Meeting Minutes

30 October 2019

**Present:** Jonathan Edgar (Chairperson), Karen Gurling (Vice Chairperson), Eileen Cabuk, Evelyn Dickson.

**Attendees:** Nicola MacGlashan (Head Teacher), Fiona Johnston (Deputy Head Teacher), Lyndsey Fenton (Staff Member), Marie Robertson, Helen Miller, Gavin McCorquodale, Emma Biorusdotter, Fiona Walker, Alison Beveridge, David Miller, Humera Ashraf, Tim Sharpe, April Segal (Head Girl), Ian McDonach (Head Boy)

Rebecca Reid (Minute Secretary)

**Apologies:**Provost Jim Fletcher, Alex Thurlow, Tasmin Sommerfield, Councillor Merrick, Susan Strathern, Lorna Griffin.

**Welcome**

Jonathan E opened the meeting and welcomed all members of the Parent Partnership (PP), members of the Parent Forum (PF), teaching staff and the new secretary.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting/ Matters Arising**

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was proposed by Eileen C and seconded by Karen G.

The engagement of parents through social media was discussed and it was agreed that Twitter was better for parents and that an Instagram page might be introduced as this is a better way of engaging with pupils.

The website was discussed and it was agreed that it was good for uploading documents but Twitter is better for uploading achievements. This needs to be further discussed to discover which form of media is better.

Eileen C asked if feedback was available for the instruction pack for the new PP members to see if improvements needed to be made.

Action 1: All forms of communication and parental engagement will be reviewed by the school next term

**Fast Forward: The Gambling and Young People Programme**

Karen G brought forward the ‘Fast Forward’ programme, saying it is a charity based in England which can come into schools for a whole school performance about the dangers of gambling. It also provides toolkits for PSHE classes to use and is free.

Fiona J stated that it would be helpful but the PSHE courses would need to be checked to allow time for lessons.

Lyndsay F stated she would look into it and Karen G agreed to forward the e-mail on with the information about the company.

Action 2: Lyndsey F to look into this once Karen G has sent on the information.

**Fundraising Updates**

Eileen C stated that the RagBags were generating roughly £40-£50 per month and School Wear Made Easy was continuing to give 5% of sales to the PP in return for promoting it.

It was discussed that organising a fundraising page should be considered to help fund school events such as Easter School. Nicola MacG and Tim S stated they would discuss this as a group out with the meeting.

Jonathan E stated a meeting would be organised to discuss the campaign for fundraising with Karen G, Alex T and Rolf R but others are welcome to attend aswell. Eileen C stated she is happy to edit the campaign but a cause needs to be decided first.

It was agreed that parents were most likely to help with funding for supported study and Easter School but supported study may be better as all years benefit from it.

Action 3: Small group will meet to discuss previous meeting with consultant (Jill) regarding

Fundraising.

**Report from the PC chairs**

Jonathan E reported on the meeting and stated the areas of interest from the other chairs included the theme of empowerment. This is giving schools areas to develop on and focus on empowering parent/carers within the school.

The main themes that parents wanted to discuss include social media, mental health first aid and the cost of the school day.

It was discussed that events for parents should be looked into to promote empowerment. Having an open door policy, PP recruitment and Show My Homework gave empowerment to parents already but more could be done.

It was agreed that people want simple language and the use of mobile apps was praised. Joe McLaughlin (National Parent Forum) spoke of things that were happening at a National level. These included the disclosure bill being simplified, encouraging family learning and maths week.

Eileen C stated that emails should be posted on the website for parents to see e.g. hyperlinks so they are there for everyone. Fiona J agreed and said notifications would help but minutes from previous meetings shouldn’t be posted until approved.

**Report from Equalities Forum meeting**

There was no report to present.

**PC involvement in Parents Night/Events**

It was discussed that the toolkit provided for new PP members was helpful for Karen G but would be helpful for real feedback once a less experienced member of the PP has used them.

Eileen C stated it would be a good idea for a rail to be available for school clothes from places such as Stevensons for people to try on whilst waiting etc and Evelyn D agreed by stating it should always be there.

Fiona J stated that Nicola MacG had a meeting with the Social Justice Manager and discussed that uniforms can be reused and resold and are looking to expand to primary schools. Eileen C agreed and stated that more people are recycling uniforms so it may be beneficial to encourage it. It was agreed that this could be an opportunity for the school to renew their Green Flag.

It was stated that the first thing the school do is see if in-poverty families need help e.g. donating uniforms. Karen G stated that more conversations about handing in old uniforms could be highlighted as people didn’t realise this was possible.

Action 4: WFHS to look at a recycling scheme for uniforms. Nicola MacG will take this

Forward.

**Dates of Meetings**

PP meetings: Wednesday 5 February 2020

        Thursday 30 April 2020

Jonathan E will attend the Parent Council Chairs meeting on Wednesday 19 February 2020 at Barrhead High School.

There is an Equalities Forum meeting on Wednesday 22 January 2020 at Barrhead High School and volunteers are still required to attend that.

**Head Teachers Update**

The Head Teacher’s update was given by Ian McD (Head Boy) and April S (Head Girl).

April S stated that S6 had been split into different committees. The Charities Committee is well under way and has already decided its charities for future school events. It was decided that there would be more than 1 charity that would be fundraised for.

April S stated that the Isobel Mair Committee has organised time for S6 pupils to sit with them in class or in the community wing - 6th year area.

April S discussed that the Yearbook Committee have found areas of support for funding and polls for the yearbook and the Leavers Committee have completed Leavers hoodie orders. April and Ian have also visited the Busby Hotel as part of the Prom Committee.

The schools Eco Group has made several changes such as reducing the use of plastic within the school and introduced a tie made from recycled plastic. Details and a tie were then shown to the PP.

Ian McD spoke about after school clubs, focusing on the hockey club which involves 40 pupils and encourages inclusive and friendly tournaments with other schools.

April S gave a brief overview of school events still to follow this term.

**Digital Learning Workshop**

Nicole F (BIT teacher), Emma S (PE teacher) and Lesley S (Social Subjects teacher) gave a workshop on Digital Learning.

Nicole F began by introducing several ways that pupils can study such as Show My Homework, Google Classroom and useful websites and gave a brief overview of each.

Gavin McC questioned the fact that not everyone can use the internet and Nicola MacG agreed but stated that the school had to keep moving with what pupils needed - which is the use of the internet. The school is also mindful of learners who do not have a digital device or the internet so teachers can print things for them. Fiona J added that a stand would be provided at school events to explain Show My Homework in further detail.

Other questions were answered in full and an understanding was shown.

Emma S and Lesley S then went on to discuss the ‘Live N Learn’ programme which is a study skills programme designed for S2, S3 and S4 pupils, as well as supporting parents. Posters and booklets were prepared and shown which involved the study skills given within BGE and Senior Phase booklets.

Feedback from pupils was given by Emma S stating that the booklets and posters were helpful and provided pupils with an easier understanding of how to study. It was discussed that posters will be displayed in classrooms and booklets will be given to pupils.

Lesley S stated that technology will be used during studying but notifications can be turned off whilst studying. Eileen C stated she is happy to try this technique out with her son.

The age range for this programme was questioned but Nicola MacG stated it was better to start at a younger age to allow pupils to build their skills and find what is right for them.

It was also questioned if any advice would be given to S5/6s for revision techniques by Eileen C and Nicola MacG answered by stating that supported study classes are organised and Brian Costello comes in for assemblies and discusses study techniques with the senior school nearer exam time. Fiona J stated she could look into getting someone to speak to the community café.

Jonathan E closed the meeting by thanking all for coming and acknowledged teachers and pupils for attending.