

## Hillhead High School Parent Council, AGM 2016

### Chair's Report

The Parent Council is a group of parents who represent parent views and work in partnership with school staff and the local authority to achieve the best for all pupils. Having a Parent Council allows the collective view of parents to be represented on matters such as the quality and standards of education at the school and other matters of interest. The Parent Council has 6 formal meetings per year, interspersed with informal meetings as and when required and these are arranged via email.

#### Summary of issues that the Parent Council was consulted on, informed of and participated in during 2015-16

- **Consultation with parents on School Improvement Plan and in preparation of the HME inspection**

Some PC members were invited to join a discussion with HMI representatives about the school and the realisation of the school improvement plan of the 2015-16 session.

- **Anti-bullying campaign**

Many discussions and activities in the 2015-16 session revolved around awareness raising of unacceptable behaviours in terms of cyber-bullying, name calling etc. A focus group was formed which informed activities the school then undertook, such as anti-bullying workshops, awareness raising and enforcement of the school's anti-bullying ethos by teachers and head teacher, participation in the Mentors against Violence Training workshops, organised by GCC, in which the school teacher and parent representatives took part.

- **School activities, trips and social events**

The PC was consulted on a range of activities and event including the career fairs, P7 induction events, and better provision of activities during lunch break to stop – especially the younger - pupils from leaving the school grounds. The discussions around this have not finished yet, however, in the last PC meeting parents discussed the option that the back playground, could be used more actively during lunch breaks for sports activities. Parents also offered to support with staffing in the school library, running a school choir and attending school trips.

- **3 Focus groups**

- Improvement of **school canteen provision** (two reports have been submitted by parents [see PC website], PC will contact local councillors again to obtain help in putting pressure on Cordia to change provision according to suggestions made in the reports)
- Improvement of the **school website** (this was one aspect of the overall focus on improving communications with parents at key stages of the school year – three reports were submitted by parents [see PC website], and the focus group suggested to relaunch the school website moving away from Gateway Exchange, the current provider; parents volunteered to set up the new website, had meetings with Ms Mullen at the school and have gathered all requests made by parents to make the website as user-friendly as

possible)

- Improvement of **parental involvement** (this was an initiative to better coordinate the involvement of parents in school activities and to enable to school to approach parents who are willing to help more easily; the group gathered information via a questionnaire, but more work needs to be done on this to establish a database, also in view of gaining parent support for career events)

- **Fundraising**

The PC established the need for fundraising to continue the Charlie Hepburn bequest (a prize giving fund unique to Hillhead High School, dating back to the 1960s), and a sub-group of volunteers came together to plan the event scheduled for late October/early November at Hillhead Sports Club.

- **PC communications with parents at the school**

To improve the Parent Council communication with parents at the school and reach a wider group of parents, a parent volunteer, Robina Nicolson, set up a facebook page, a twitter account as well as a new email account for the PC. More details to follow in AGM minutes.

- **Plans for parental involvement for 2016-17**

- a) PC stated that its work in the coming year ought to focus again on the support of the educational work going on at the school. As a result the meetings of the dedicated focus groups will continue.
- b) As a second initiative for parent involvement, the PC would like continue to support the school in helping youngsters in their career choices
- c) In a third initiative, parents would like to offer their expertise in acquiring and using digital tools for learning in the school – beyond setting up the school website. This is also in view of offering different approaches to learning for pupils with learning difficulties etc.
- d) PC will continue to be involved in the relaunch of the school website to enhance communication with and information of parents.
- e) PC will continue the work on anti-bullying, name calling, awareness of cyberbullying etc.

## **Membership**

The Constitution states that the PC shall have a maximum of 10 members and a minimum of 5. It is also able to co-opt members of staff and other relevant persons provided there are more parents than co-opted people. In the previous session the PC had 10 members and three co-opted members.

Elected Chair Person – Sylvia Warnecke

Current Vice Chair – Chiara Cipollari

Treasurer - Andrew Pidgeon, has handed over the position to Chiara Cipollari. However, due to regulations at the Band of Scotland, where there is a requirement for three signatories, Andrew will need to hand this over at the bank together with Sari Young, the previous PC chair.

**Current co-opted members:**

Bernie Mitchell- Hillhead Sports Club

Janice Douglas – Staff

Tommy Gough – Staff

The Parent Council needs new members to keep it vibrant, particularly parents whose children are at the start of their secondary schooling and have a long association ahead of them. Everyone on the Parent Council brings something different and something useful to make it work, so please don't think you have nothing to offer. If you are interested in becoming a member, please join us.

All parents and carers are welcome to attend Parent Council meetings. Updates from the Parent Council and minutes of all meetings are available on the school website

<http://www.hillheadhigh.glasgow.sch.uk>

We will continue to use the school newsletter to keep you informed. Parents who have provided us with their email address will receive communications by this method. Please let us know if you would like to be added to the email distribution list.

Sylvia Warnecke

Chair Person

29.08.2016