

Hillhead High School Parent Council, AGM 28/08/2017

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. In addition, the Parent Council communicated regularly with the Parent Forum, all parents whose children go to Hillhead High School, and organises meetings to which all parents are invited.

Summary of the work of the Parent Council during the 2016-17 session

1. Consultation on curricular structure of the Senior phase in Hillhead High School

Following requests by a group of parents, the Parent Council organised a Parent Forum event in November 2016 during which the Headteacher My Wight answered questions that had been submitted by a wide range of parents via a survey undertaken before the event. The event was well-received and led to further activities of the Parent Council in this area. The main request from parents was to improve communication in this area and from the school to receive parents' feedback and input to help tailor provision more effectively to pupils' needs.

The Parent Council has been supporting the school in even more effective communication with parents about the curricular structure, its rationale and most importantly points at which parents and pupils' input and decisions are vital for pupils' success in exams and at school in more general terms, through:

- a. an improved school website which has up-to-date information in all key areas
- b. enabling better communication channels through more effective use of social media, i.e. the school's Twitter account, the various Departments' website blogs, the Parent Council's Facebook and Twitter accounts
- c. information evenings for parents at key stages, i.e. end of S3, dedicated to the curricular structure
- d. supporting the school in producing information tailored to parents' and pupils' needs about the curricular structure

The work the Parent Council has done in this area was officially recognised the Director General of Education & Justice as well as the chief executive of Education Scotland during a school visit in May 2017.

2. Anti-bullying campaign

Continuing the work undertaken in the 2015-16 session, which revolved around awareness raising of unacceptable behaviours in terms of cyber-bullying, name calling etc. following the Mentors against Violence Training workshops, organised by GCC, in which the school teacher and parent representatives took part, the parent representatives then took part in workshop with Hillhead High pupils who will work with fellow pupils in the school.

3. Staff selection and recruitment

Five parents took part in the selection and recruitment training offered by GCC, in order to be involved in the recruitment of new staff. This was timely as the school has had to recruit many staff in a range of positions, following the retirement of Mr Wight as Headteacher. Three Parent Council representatives were involved in the recruitment of the new Headteacher, Mrs McAlaney, another member of the Parent Council was part of the recruitment panel for the Deputy Headteacher post vacated by Mrs McAlaney.

4. School activities

The PC supported a range of activities and events including for example:

- a. Providing careers advice and support at career fairs, inviting careers advisers to a Parent Council meeting to support parents in helping their children make career choices
- b. Attending induction events, i.e. parents ran workshops or presented during the S6 induction organised by Mr Neil to help make the S6 year even more meaningful and effective for pupils
- c. Supporting the work of the school library by a parent who regularly mans the library and helps pupils using the facility
- d. Promoting traffic safety in Great Western Road, a member of the Parent Council drafted a letter to GCC supporting the initiative by Hillhead Primary School in this matter.

5. 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 and planned two fundraising events, a very successful quiz night in November and an evening with Antiques Road Show presenter Anita Manning in May, which raised around £1500.00.

The Parent Council also supports the school in acquiring equipment, for example by applying for funding for the PE Department and using Parent Council funds for the purchase of sports equipment that can be used by pupils during break times.

6. Promoting pupil equity

The Parent Council has run/supported equity initiatives:

- a. Made a call for donations of clothing and helped sort the donations
- b. Took part in promoted the 'Cost of school clothing' survey in order to raise awareness and gain support from the Scottish Government for school clothing
- c. Started to collaborate with community institutions, such as local religious communities, to secure more clothing donations for school pupils

7. Engagement with other Parent Councils / National Parent Forum

Members of the Parent Council have attended events organised by the National Parent Forum, for example the consultation on the National Improvement Framework to drive excellence and equality in Scottish schools

(<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Pages/nifnationalimprovementframework.aspx>), as well as the Governance Review (<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/thegovernancereview>).

The Parent Council also took part in a consultation organised by the Parent Council of Notre Dame primary school, with the focus on making Note Dame primary and secondary schools mixed gender schools, removing their status as an all girls school. Such a change would have an impact on the school population in Hillhead High School in terms of the gender of the school population.

8. Plans for parental involvement for 2017-18

- 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 and planning
- 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 supporting the school in relation to pupil equity initiatives
- e) PC will continue to be involved in the relaunch of the school website to enhance communication with and information of parents
- f) PC will continue the fundraising work that commenced in the 2016-17 session, with another quiz night and other initiatives for which we are planning to involve pupils as well.

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.

Parent Council members in 2016-17 session:

- Elected Chair Person – Sylvia Warnecke
- Current Treasurer – Chiara Cipollari (Please note: previous Treasurer - Andrew Pidgeon, has handed over the position to Chiara Cipollari. However, due to regulations at the Bank 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.)
- Gordana Nesterovic
- John Quinn
- Loredana Prezioso
- Chirsty Hamilton
- Senga Minto
- Catriona Futter
- Donna Mclean

Current co-opted members:

- Bernie Mitchell- Hillhead Sports Club

- Elaine Cuthbertson – Staff (replaced by Nicola Kerr during secondment)
- Alyson Ayton Staff - (replaced by John Gemmil)
- Tommy Gough – Staff (replaced by Steven Neil)

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 our Twitter account 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

28.08.2017