

Minutes - Parent Council Meeting, 19th March 2019, 6.30 p.m., Hillhead High School

Parent Council Member: Sylvia Warnecke; Catriona Futter; Chiara Cipollari; Bernie Mitchell; Andrea Fisher, Tariq Ishaq, Karen Leeson

Teaching Staff: Karen McAlaney (Head Teacher); Mr S. Neil.

Parent forum: 8 members of the parent forum.

Apologies: Jolene Crawford, John Gemmill, Nicola Kerr

Topic	To do
<p>1. Head Teacher's Report</p> <p>See report Attached</p> <p>The Head Teacher underlines particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glasgow City Council HMI inspection report Senior phase: supported study, roll-out of study skills support for S4, 1st draft of S5/6 choices has been handed out for completion, S6 induction week beginning 3 June Eco group: headteacher meeting with Cordia in an attempt to reduce the use of plastic Call goes out for the donation of used school uniforms to school 	<p>Wording around which items would be acceptable needs clarified, i.e. black clothes, not ripped, no fashion items, shorts as well as long trousers etc.</p>
<p>2. Climate change strikes</p> <p>Headteacher reports that it has been difficult for the school to manage pupil absences and communication with parents around this, while adhering to GCC guidelines.</p> <p>Parents suggested for the school to try and harness to motivation and enthusiasm for climate change action within the school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karen McAlaney reports that the school has a very strong Eco Committee S. Neil suggested to set up a climate change committee in the new S6 who would then work with younger pupils across the school as a leadership initiative Parents formed a sub-group led by Annabel Crossley, also as a means to establish collaboration with parents/schools in the Hillhead community 	<p>The school requests that parents contact the school in advance of the date of a planned climate change demonstration to notify the school that they agree for their child(ren) to attend such an event.</p>
<p>3. Bernie Mitchell commended the study skills support provided by the school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expresses concerns that such support might not be possible in the future due to PEF funding being withdrawn soon Mrs McAlaney commented that the school uses PEF funding for teacher CPD as an investment in staff (among other things) 	

<p>to make the positive developments in the school more sustainable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bernie also commented that the school should further seek funds to celebrate achievements from external sources, 2019 saw donations of £700 from the Mosque in the community, £1000 from Peter McLean • Mrs McAlaney commented that the school is following up on parent feedback and is in the process of changing the prize giving through a committee which includes pupil reps 	
<p>4. (Foreign) Trips offered through the school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrea commented that a number of trips offered through the school to pupils do not support equal opportunities and are not conducive to protecting the environment, i.e. trip to Malaysia to save turtles: very expensive, puts pressure on parents and families, might give the wrong message to ask pupils to fundraise for their own trip where the environmental protection activity is only a small part • Parents commented that there are many worthy environmental causes to support closer to home, which would have less of a carbon footprint 	<p>School to review the trips it promotes to pupils and it attempts to inform parents earlier wherever possible, i.e. there might be a plan for the entire year/two years ahead</p> <p>School also attempts to provide more transparency around choice of promoted trips and how school trips are planned</p>
<p>5. Handling of non-attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robina and Chirsty reported that they attended a parent forum event where approaches to dealing with non-attendance by GCC schools were discussed • GCC are working on a research project to establish reasons for non-attendance in order to tackle the problem in a more targeted way and move away from blanked policies • Parents are also seeking advice on attendance management and way for collaborating with schools to improve attendance • Following questions, Mrs McAlaney established that there is no actual detention policy and detention cases are decided on an ad-hoc basis, all detentions have to be reported to the relevant PT or DHT 	<p>Robina and Chirsty will continue to work with the school on improving non-attendance handling</p>
<p>7. AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa will provide feedback to the school about issues navigating the school website, especially for new parents, she will also check for out-of-date or incorrect information • Parents asked for Groupcall information/technical guidance to be added to the parent zone of the website • Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 28th May 2019, 6.30 p.m., At Chinese Hub at Hillhead High School <p>The minutes are posted also on the PC website.</p>	<p>Please get in touch with the parent council chair in the meantime with any questions/comments you might have by email s.warnecke@open.ac.uk</p>