

## 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><b>1. Head Teacher's Report</b></p> <p>See report Attached</p> <p>The Head Teacher underlines particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glasgow City Council HMI inspection report</li> <li>• Senior phase: supported study, roll-out of study skills support for S4, 1<sup>st</sup> draft of S5/6 choices has been handed out for completion, S6 induction week beginning 3 June</li> <li>• Eco group: headteacher meeting with Cordia in an attempt to reduce the use of plastic</li> <li>• Call goes out for the donation of used school uniforms to school</li> </ul>	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><b>2. Climate change strikes</b></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"> <li>• Karen McAlaney reports that the school has a very strong Eco Committee</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Parents formed a sub-group led by Annabel Crossley, also as a means to establish collaboration with parents/schools in the Hillhead community</li> </ul>	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><b>3. Bernie Mitchell commended the study skills support provided by the school</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expresses concerns that such support might not be possible in the future due to PEF funding being withdrawn soon</li> <li>• Mrs McAlaney commented that the school uses PEF funding for teacher CPD as an investment in staff (among other things)</li> </ul>	

<p>to make the positive developments in the school more sustainable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4. (Foreign) Trips offered through the school</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Parents commented that there are many worthy environmental causes to support closer to home, which would have less of a carbon footprint</li> </ul>	<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><b>5. Handling of non-attendance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robina and Chirsty reported that they attended a parent forum event where approaches to dealing with non-attendance by GCC schools were discussed</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Parents are also seeking advice on attendance management and way for collaborating with schools to improve attendance</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	<p>Robina and Chirsty will continue to work with the school on improving non-attendance handling</p>
<p><b>7. AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Parents asked for Groupcall information/technical guidance to be added to the parent zone of the website</li> <li>• Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019, 6.30 p.m., At Chinese Hub at Hillhead High School</li> </ul> <p>The minutes are posted also on the PC website.</p>	<p><b>Please get in touch with the parent council chair in the meantime with any questions/comments you might have by email</b></p> <p><b><a href="mailto:s.warnecke@open.ac.uk">s.warnecke@open.ac.uk</a></b></p>