

## Minutes - Parent Council Meeting, 28th May 2019, 6.30 p.m., Hillhead High School

**Parent Council Member:** Sylvia Warnecke; Catriona Futter; Chiara Cipollari; Bernie Mitchell; Jolene Crawford, Ali Downes, Chirsty Hamilton

**Teaching Staff:** Mr S. Neil (Deputy Head Teacher), Tom Carson (PT Maths)

**Parent forum:** 8 members of the parent forum.

**Apologies:** Gordana Nesterovic, John Gemmill, Andrea Fisher, Karen Leeson, Tariq Ishaq

Topic	To do
<p>Robina Nicholson requested the following amendment to the PC meeting minutes from 19/03/19 on agenda item: <b>Attendance management</b></p> <p>Robina and Christy met with school management in January to discuss approaches to dealing with non-attendance, in particular the stress caused to parents by letters which emphasised the threat of being taken to court and cases where prosecution had been carried through.</p> <p>The headteacher informed us that GCC are working on a research project to establish the underlying reasons for non-attendance. We feel that in the long term this could help with a more sensitive and effective approach to the problem.</p> <p>We also explained how parents might need help and advice in dealing with problem attendance and thought it might be possible for the parent council to facilitate ways for parents to support each other with attendance issues (and other parenting difficulties).</p> <p>Robina and Christy wrote to a City Councillor with their concerns about how attendance problems are dealt with. A freedom of information request was submitted to assess the extent of prosecutions.</p> <p>2016 - 206 prosecution with three resulting in fines            2018 - 150 prosecutions with five resulting in fines            2019 (year so far to 12 March) - 44 prosecutions with zero resulting in fines</p> <p>Robina requested that attendance issues be discussed at the city wide Parent Group - this was refused but our concerns appear to have been discussed behind the scenes. Robina spoke to Maureen McKenna at a later stage and was assured that the policy had changed two weeks previously, that there would be no more prosecutions and all schools would be issued with guidance about how to deal with non-attendance. Maureen McKenna seemed to be aware of the details our complaints and investigations but credited the reason for these changes on recommendations from inspectors in the local authority inspection.</p> <p>At our March parent council meeting, Karen McAuley confirmed that guidance on dealing with non-attendance had recently been received.</p> <p>Robina and Christy consider this campaign to be a success in helping put a stop to the prosecution of parents across Glasgow (we feel that success was down to formulating a good argument and approaching an influential city councillor).</p>	

<p>Update after meeting of subgroup May 2019 - To finally round up the project Robina and Christy will ask the headteacher to show us a copy of the new guidance documents, so that we can be assured that the changes will be acceptable from a parent point of view.</p>	
<p><b>1. Head Teacher's Report</b> See report Attached The Head Teacher underlines particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feature article in the <i>Sunday Herald</i> about Hillhead High School</li> <li>• The eco-group will become a main feature of the next 3-year school improvement plan to be published in summer 2019</li> <li>• 5 PTs held a very fruitful meeting with members of the parent council in an attempt to improve communication around senior phase assessment and subject choices on 28/5/19</li> <li>• 3 June will be the start of the S6 induction week, this year led by Mrs Hamid; the week will focus on developing pupils' work ethic and independent study skills as well as beginning to work on the UCAS personal statements</li> <li>• Bernie Mitchell commended the study support offered by the school for S5 and 6 exam preparation</li> </ul>	<p>PTs will prepare and circulate information they are planning to send out to parents, PC members will give feedback</p>
<p><b>2. Hillhead High School featuring in the Scottish school league tables</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandra Hüttenbügel had requested to discuss the fact that Hillhead High School only ranks very low in the Scottish School League Tables 2019</li> <li>• S Neil explained how the ranking for these tables is undertaken, and that this ranking does not take into account any socio-economic factors of the school population/community; although Hillhead High School is located in the West End, the school has a high percentage of pupils from low SIMD areas. This can be measured by pupils eligible for free school meals, which accounts for 43% of Hillhead High pupils</li> <li>• The plenary discussed at length whether the specific curricular setup and exam system (2-year Higher/Nat5) at Hillhead High School might have had a negative impact on exam performance, attainment and achievement of pupils in the school</li> <li>• Addressing concerns and questions of junior school parents are parents whose children will move to Hillhead High in the new term, S Neil agreed to hold an information evening for interested parents in the junior school, especially parents new to the school, at the beginning of next term</li> </ul>	<p>Also SLT to check whether website contains sufficient information for this parent group about the curricular setup</p>
<p><b>3. Appointment of new signatories for Hillhead High School Parent Council bank account</b></p>	<p>Sylvia (chair), Chiara and Catriona are to sign relevant forms at the bank on 3 June 2019</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyone present approved unanimously the appointment of Chiara Cipollari (Treasurer) and Catriona Futter (Vice Chair) as new signatories for the Parent Council bank account</li> <li>• Bernie Mitchell offered to act as auditor for the bank account to prepare a report for the AGM in September 2019 – the Parent Council very much appreciated the offer and appointed Bernie as auditor</li> </ul>	<p>Ciara and Catriona to issue Bernie with relevant information as soon as the signatory access has been set up by the bank</p>
<p><b>4. Loredana had requested a discussion addressing concerns regarding bullying and social media abuse in the junior school</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S Neil explained how the school handles incidents relating to bullying and social media abuse</li> <li>• S Neil agreed that the school would inform parents more of general issues regarding this through GroupCall inviting parents to raise any concerns with the SLT</li> <li>• In the next session the community police officer will hold an information evening for parents about social media abuse to raise awareness, help parents feel more in control of their children’s use of social media and provide useful information about steps to take in case of any concerns</li> </ul>	<p>The school will upload useful materials issues by GCC around young people’s mental health and how this can be supported by parents in the ParentZone of the school’s website</p>
<p><b>7. AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date of next meeting: <b>Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019, 6.30 p.m.</b>, At Chinese Hub at Hillhead High School This meeting will be the PC AGM</li> </ul> <p>The minutes are posted also on the ParentZone of the school’s 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> <a href="mailto:s.warnecke@open.ac.uk">s.warnecke@open.ac.uk</a></p>