

Hillhead High School Parent Council Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, 23rd November 2021, 19:00

Parent Council: Catriona Futter (PC Chair), Ali Downes (PC Treasurer), Jerome Boué (PC Secretary), Karen Leeson, Andrea Fisher, Bernie Mitchell, Annabel Wright, Astrid Azurdia, Sandra Huettenbuegel

School Staff: Mrs Karen McAlaney (HT), Mr Steven Neil (DHT), Ms Leanne Black (DHT), Mr Jack Richardson (Associate DHT), Mr Tom Carson (Associate DHT), Miss Kirstin Campbell (PT of Pastoral Care)

Parent forum: 35 members of the Parent Forum

Topic	To do
<p>Welcome & Introductions – PC Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to all, especially if 1st time at PC or P1 parent/carer; it's the most parents/carers we've ever had in attendance (35) • 9 in PC, all attending + 6 staff, thank you all for coming, busy time for all • PC intros: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Catriona, daughter in S5 + 1 who just finished S6, chair for 1.5 years ○ Jerome, son in S3, secretary for 1.5 yrs, meetings minutes, Facebook, Twitter ○ Astrid, children in S2, S4, involved in PC past few yrs, joined PC earlier this yr ○ Karen, children in S2, S4 + a leaver, 7th yr on PC ○ Ali, 2 boys S3, S6, on PC a few yrs, taken over as treasurer, Zoom set up ○ Annabel, daughter in S4, PACE leader ○ Andrea, children in S1, S4, S6, member of PACE ○ Sandra, child in S1, member of PACE • Staff intros: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Karen McAlaney HT for 4.5 yrs, at HHS for 8 yrs ○ Steven Neil, DHT S4/5, HHS since 2011, head of PE 5.5yrs, then DHT for time after that ○ Kirstin Campbell, 3 yrs at HHS, Principal teacher for Pastoral care, supporting wellbeing ○ Leanne Black, DHT for S6 this yr, at HHS since 2015, previously head of Sfl, moved to DHT in 2019 ○ Jack Richardson, Associate DHT, 7th year at HHS ○ Tom Carson, Associate DHT and PT Maths for 2.5 yrs • Minutes from previous PC meeting approved by PC members Annabel/Andrea 	
<p>Student residency requirements for immigrant students – Ahmed</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack Richardson mailed Chair about request from Ahmed for support- Ahmed had written to Scottish Government • Came to Scotland 2 yrs ago, sat 5 Highers last yr, 2 advanced Highers + 2 Highers this year • If applies to St Andrews Uni now needs to pay £20K in tuition fees • Needs Settled Status in order to have same rights as Scottish students – extremely difficult to obtain and will only eligible to apply in 5 yrs from now (ie would only be able to go to Uni in 5 yrs) • Ahmed mailed MSP and Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary (devolved issue) with proposal to change residency requirements in regard to university fees for Scottish students – Secretary replied advising him to apply for an endowment – Ahmed mailed her again - awaiting reply but if rejected again, will start petition • PC can help: write to MSP supporting change/proposal (Ahmed already drafted mails – template of mails + letters to MSP, Cabinet Sec, all available here); speak to friends, especially if lawyers, in education or in government • PC members shared article issued today of England’s version of Ahmed’s issue, includes key policies (link from Guardian above students who have lived in UK since childhood who were denied loans, available here) • Support already received: approached by PC members - one of them works within Scottish gvt, assisting Ahmed in process, also 2 renowned lawyers (eg Aamer Anwar – 3 yrs ago, Aamer spoke at prize giving, already supportive) • Ex-PC member also supporting Tariq: already started process in background, to help amplify issue • Human Rights Advocacy Officer @ Maryhill Integration Network also offers any advice and support • Huge shout out for how articulate letters/documents are – issue not just for Ahmed but numerous other students • Thank you to those who've already been in touch • Please contact Ahmed if you want to help 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ahmed to contact Tariq via mail (Tariq now in contact with Ahmed directly) • Chair to mail out link to Google Drive with all draft letters, materials to PC distrib list
<p>S6 captains: Introductions and Plans for this Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to S6 captains Faatima Kazeem and Stanley Weeks, fun to meet you, thanks for coming • Black History month event – as leadership team, captains/prefects, created displays, quizzes, tannoy announcements to talk about famous figures, focusing on British aspect of it • Supported anti-bullying week, with Miss Robinson support, leadership team went round S1 classes, in PSE and presented about bullying, discussions on how to resolve, etc. Tannoid announcements about famous people who campaigned against it. Made posters, encouraged people to write words of kindness (eg “One kind word”). Did some work with COP26, New York Times Radio, spoke how it affected school community • Environment: couple of weeks ago, received international students (Decarbonise & Decolonise project) – goal to reduce carbon emissions, etc. – Miss Campbell worked with S6 leadership team to break ice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PACE could help and join forces with eco groups from school 	

- Annabel, Sandra, Andrea lead PACE group: Annabel --> interested to join forces, some long-term links would be really good.
- PACE here to support school in environmental ways and guide PC and avoid environmental impact
- PACE Preparing Eco policy to help school/PC - would be great to meet up and discuss and exchange ideas.
- Lot of shared passion, ideas and energy, makes sense to pull together.
- Study space: trying to find study space, one idea is to use the library at Glasgow Uni, for S6 studying time (starting conversation with Uni to gain access, more for long term than current S6 year, trying to create some kind of legacy for years to come) – year bigger than upcoming S6 groups, will get better next yr
- lack of space at HHS, library often used for classes so shut to S6s for study time, due lack of space, library sometimes used as class
- If PC can help with this enquiry to Glasgow Uni, that would be appreciated
 - Librarian currently not in school, Tom Carson coordinating study access

Comment from Mr Neil:

- Librarian did lot of work to make it covid safe
- Currently room for approx. 28 students at a time to study socially distanced, spread throughout the week
- Also used for classes at times, S1-3 book borrowing, etc.

Comments from Chair:

- Really appreciate for Faatima and Stanley to be here
- Opportunity to work with PC, with younger children, very positive
- If things PC can do, pls get in touch
- Staff v proud about captains and S6 leadership team

Comment from Ms Black:

- Mr Neil had done a lot of groundwork;
- Did interview activities with them, selected team and been meeting with them weekly, very keen
- Input to school improvement plan, priorities; each member of leadership team is part of school committees (first ones to complete S6 leadership awards)
- Very proactive, always want to get stuck in; lot of energy, experience in school; very aspirational

Languages – DHT Ms Black

- Rationale for existing languages + English as Additional Language (EAL)
- Broad General Education – S1-3: French, Urdu, Mandarin; S3, option to start Spanish; Scots language as a potential future option is being discussed.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seniors S4-6: mainly, Urdu, Mandarin, Spanish in last 2 yrs (+ supporting Arabic, German) • EAL teacher in place, info on website about this, linking with other EAL teachers across the city, lot of work/support on this. • Spanish has been offered as extra in S3, with enough pupils picking it up to make it a subject in senior phase • pupils coming from all different schools (where different languages are taught) <p>Parent Q: What are the relative numbers for the three main taught languages?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HT to confirm relative numbers for the three main taught languages (French, Urdu, Mandarin)
<p>HT Head Teachers Report – Fake social media accounts, Parents evening/tracking report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So much going on, busy month • Very busy with COP26, many visitors, PACE visit, powerful work to move this forward • Children in Need, S6 leadership awards raising money • Duke of Edinburgh programme going strong - DOE awards ceremony will be online (YouTube), HHS paying for every child • Staff training other staff on coaching, pupils meeting with their coaches, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracking reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some parents/carers have concerns over lack of meaningful information in tracking reports ○ Tracking reports have always meant to come out in conjunction with parents’ evening, not in isolation, unfortunately COVID has negatively impacted this link (newer version of tracking reports have been developed following feedback from PC on previous system. Parents Nights will take place via phone and online booking system has been put in place. ○ S2 coming out next, interventions organised, a lot of work behind the scenes ○ S1 tracking reports coming out in January <p>DHT Mr Neil’s Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence gathering, important point – the word “prelims” is very outdated, one thing that came out as a positive during covid is that pupil performance when working towards SQA qualifications is not just down to 1 exam, “every piece of work matters” • Plan of action, post evidence-gathering sessions – Dr John Paul Fitzpatrick will do mindset/motivation work with S5s (ill and couldn’t be available before evidence gathering), will be target setting, coaching sessions. • What happens after, real true feedback of where pupils are • S5s lacking formalised environment experience; balance between doing best they can but also aware assessments are not high stakes – some time between January and May to make improvements • Supported study programme in place from Tom Carson 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents Evening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Online system being worked on by Jack Richardson/Stuart Brown ○ Teachers meeting to be booked online ○ Parents/carers will be speaking to individual subject teachers (one school has done it and it's worked well, Karen/Stuart in touch with that school HT) ○ Linking in with translators, if some unavailable, will arrange follow up meetings ○ 5 minute call with class teachers • Social Media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dominating young people's lives, dealt with by Pastoral Care ○ Few weeks ago, awareness across many schools, Tik Tok fake accounts made in name pupils, schools, staff accounts, some harmless, others harmful to staff/pupils, a lot of pupils following, also on Instagram, some Snapchat ○ Able to identify pupils, some letters to parents, parents very supportive, number of accounts taken down, had lessons with pupils. ○ The Glasgow City Parent Forum could help ○ Karen McAlaney contacted Kathryn Farrow to try and arrange Glasgow wide information event for parents on this topic and how to manage it ○ Very grateful to parents/carers who have supported • Chair Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Takes enormous amount of time for staff to deal with which detracts from time spent on other things ○ Important that parents encourage their children to stick to school mobile phone policy and not use phones in class ○ Thanks to Mr Brown for all his work on this matter. 	<p>ALL PARENTS: please ensure you and your child are aware of mobile phone policy and adhere to it</p>
<p>School Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Improvement Group – Associate DHT Mr Richardson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parents involved, newsletter on Developing Young Workforce on website ○ Next big thing in school – all school leavers will complete college applications (S5 and S6s), even if they intend to go to Uni., as first choice or back up plan ○ Will be education/video guides/help on writing personal statements ○ College will take in suitable applications and fill up, 1st come, 1st served (need to start work now on Personal Statement) 	<p>ALL PARENTS: if you are able to offer any work</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UCAS applications can be used for College application ○ College is majority of where young people go ○ DYW group - things happening in background – raising attainment meeting tomorrow, will bring in parents once clear vision and ready for their input – probably next year ○ Parents to get in touch if feel they can help ○ Work places getting more opened again about having young people in for work experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Values Group –DHT Mr Neil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Met 1st time 08-Nov, then 22-Nov, putting something together, will be issued before end of term ○ Comms via mail with PC member, looking to get ideas, time commitment to move things forward, plan to meet with parents who have offered to get involved in early Jan. ○ Planning traditional prize giving to ensure celebrating all values - Parent's ideas being explored on this currently ○ Culture of respect critical ● Cost of School Day Group – HT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some work done, more work coming after Xmas ○ Working on Xmas Eve boxes, Financial Inclusion Support Officer, plan for staff training starting in January. ○ Now trying to raise awareness, via Groupcalls, website, Twitter, etc. ○ Trying to get more internet access with dongles ○ HT has names of parents who want to help ○ Staff are dealing with enormous amount of work <p>Comment from staff Miss Campbell: will look at what can be done to support pupils when over holidays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Grounds Group – PC Member Bernie <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3 projects identified: extension to bike shed, replacement minibus and identification of outside furniture (tables/benches) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bike shed similar to current shed identified/sourced ▪ Minibus – unsure how much existing life left, £12/13K for second hand, new £30K excl VAT ▪ Outdoor seating – standard stock item , can be purchased from garden centre for small amount of money ○ Bernie offered to run quiz at HH sports club early March, should help raise £1K. ○ General point - has to be way to galvanise school population and raise funds. ○ Parent Uli Enslein - working with PACE group, offering to work with Bernie on school grounds group 	<p>experience in your work place, please contact Jack Richardson</p>
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Zoom Q&A: Minibus used for wide variety of things, some school trips, sports clubs, games across the city, as taxis very expensive and taking team of 15 on public transport difficult

Parents Question: With the subgroups do you need members from the parent forum to join? If so, is there a list of the subgroups somewhere? new to the school and trying to gather what is happening and if can help, thanks

Chair Answer: I can send you the newsletter I sent out after the last meeting. If you email the parent council hillheadhighparentcouncil@gmail.com to make sure you are on the mailing list, and I can let you know as we are always looking for parents to get involved

PACE Update – PC Member Annabel, PC Member Sandra, PC Member Andrea

- Annabel – PACE are drafting eco policy, will consult with pupils and then share it, to offer framework to PC to try as hard as we can to have the least environmental impact

Comment from PC Member Andrea: Eco policy will be shared with other PCs in Glasgow, for other schools to use/ adapt, as it seems that no other school (that we know of) has one

- Someone from PACE will be amongst all subgroups, to embed sustainability in all groups
- Meeting regularly, if interested, welcome anyone, ideas, email PC to find out more
- Annabel Invited to the school to see pupils during COP26 as part of Birds 2B Heard project
- Met with House of Lords Lord Lucas' wife – HHS presented great welcome, all work done around COP 26, prize winning poem

- Sandra - Apparel Xchange - box in school and second-hand uniform
- School has uniform stock and other clothing, however not much other than uniforms
- If excess, can give to Apparel Xchange/local charity shops
- Sandra can come to school and collect, will need to link with school better on this
- School putting things in place to help families in need
- Encouraging people to get in touch with financial adviser, for people entitled to help

- Free bus tickets for young people: <https://www.transport.gov.scot/concessionary-travel/young-persons-free-bus-travel-scheme/>
- Link for Glasgow City network: https://glasgowcitynetwork.commonplace.is/?utm_campaign=reactions-agreements&utm_source=cp-email&utm_medium=email&lang=en-GB

PACE, staff and S6 leadership team plus eco committee to work together on plans for next term

<p>Comment from Staff Miss Campbell: donation days run previously, at time, lots of donations, haven't done formal one this year but parents have been dropping things off, steady stream</p>	
<p>PC Accounts/Funds – Treasurer Ali</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank account: £2694.27 • Ali completed treasurer training, day after took on role of treasurer • Looking into bank options for accts • We should try to get more members to check out via Easyfundraising site online • ***POST MEETING ADENDUM – Astrid Azurdia agreed to be co-signatory of PC bank account, approved by Bernie Mitchell and Catriona Futter. Previously agreed co-signatories of Bernie Mitchell, Andrea Fisher, Jerome Boue and Alasdair Downes to be added to Bank account and Catriona Futter to be removed as signatory. 	<p>ALL PARENTS: if you are shopping online, please do so via the EasyFundraising website and have HHS as the cause you support</p> <p>Ali to update bank account with new signatories</p>
<p>Christmas Eve Boxes - HT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicola Higgins set this up last year, thanks to donations from staff, PC, local churches, 120 boxes made up for pupils, with pyjamas, books, toiletries, socks, sweets, chocolates • Group running this with support with S6 leadership team • give them out to pupils the last few days • If want to sponsor a box/make donation, use PC or staff directly or give envelope addressed to HT, etc 	<p>PC To sponsor 10 boxes using PC funds</p>
<p>Additional Comments/Questions from Parent Forum during meeting/via Zoom Chat</p> <p>Zoom Chat Q&A: DoE wider attainment options: avail in S4 and S6, can also do it in own time in S4-6</p> <p>Parents/Carers Comments: : Very grateful for supported study sessions; supported study sessions are great!</p> <p>Parent/Carer Comment: thanks to all the teachers and staff for their hard work, thanks to the PC too!</p>	<p>ALL PARENTS: please encourage your child not to hang around as part of a large group in lanes/streets around school and be respectful</p>

Parent/Carer Comment: thank you very much for all the teachers	of passing members of public
Closing Comments from Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thank you so much to all parents/carers and staff for joining tonight, really supportive of all staff	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next Meeting: Monday 31 January 2022 – will include Annual Business Meeting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PC Meeting End	