

Hillhead High School Parent Council meeting

Date: 26.09.23 / Time: 18:30-20:00

- **Attendees:** Martina Johnston-Gray (Chair) / Catriona Futter / Ali Downes / Kiki Kobatake / Valentina Kskhafa / Sandra Huettenbuegel / Sam Bartlett / Bernie Mitchell / Antonia Hornung / Karen McAlaney (HT) / Jack Richardson (DHT) / Mr Tom Carson (DHT) / Kirstin Campbell
- **Apologies:** / Ram Karunagaran / Jerome Boué/Steven Neil (DHT)/Chris Athanasiadis

Notes

Item 1

Martina did introductions and explained the purpose of the forum.

PC members did introductions to the Forum

- Sam B
- Ali
- Valentina
- Bernie
- Antonia
- Sandra

Previous minutes - proposed and approved

Went through action log:

- Jack Richardson confirmed that information about *Getting it Right for Every Child* is on the website
- Still ongoing discussion about charity status for the parent council - Martina will meet with Ali to discuss
- Ali updated on domain names obtained for the parent council - action closed
- Still ongoing - solar panels - no luck with getting response from Trish Henderson - suggested to get in touch with Kathryn Farrow to identify the right contact - Martina will follow up.

Item 2

Silent auction update

VK updated on the work completed on the silent auction:

- 45 items are available; 20 uploaded
- Ali is happy to arrange a payment to update an increase
- Bernie asked about amount for items that we acquired to help
- Valentina will tally up and revert
- Agreed that the auction will run for 48hrs starting Friday 6th at 12:00 until 7th October 23:59
- Everyone to help and support to retweet and share
- Valentina to email people who provided items asking them to share on their social media.

- Martina provided an update on Itison pumpkin fund - we are unable to use this money until we have confirmation that we have the rest of the money raised. This is similar to area partnership funding
- If anyone has any ideas everyone to get in touch

Item 3

Winter Fayre - 25th November from 10-12 - Nicola Jackson will be sharing information.

Amey (contractor) confirmed that we will only need to pay for janitors which will keep the cost low. We will again go with donations rather than set price to donate. Volunteers will be welcome for manning clothes stall.

Martina asked to clarify what arrangements:

- companies pay a fee and keep the profit
- Staff and pupils can run a stall for free but profits go to the school

This is a school activity and majority of the donations raised to the school.

This event is not just for the parent council fundraising, however, this time it is likely that this time it can go to the minibuss as it is becoming such an urgent issue.

Volunteers are needed as usual.

Martina asked if anything should be done different. It is worth considering trying to change up a format to generate more funding.

Everyone is welcome to offer ideas on how best to generate funding - games etc.

Ali asked whether we could make coffees for people or some drinks to try and generate some more money.

School doesn't have facilities for expensive coffee.

Sam suggested that we could make some soup.

VK asked to reach out to anyone who knows coffee shop owners to see if they would be interested to help out.

Other school events to be:

- the school show is back for the first time in 12 years - Wednesday 11th October and Thursday 12th October - 1hour show. There will be a suggested pay for £4. Amazing work to organise
- Christmas pantomime is booked in at the Websters theatre.
- Information will be circulated by the school

Item 4

Martina provided an update about the menopause group that she is in progress of setting up for the teachers. The first meeting is set up on the 27th October 2023.

There is a plan to expand this to parents in the new year. We will be putting out communication about this for the new year.

Martina is considering arranging yoga for menopause and nutrition support sessions.

She had a lot of success with this work in the third sector.

Karen advised that there was a lot of interest from staff and one member is willing to co-lead this work.

It is also important to consider how we work with young people to understand that they recognise challenges that both young people and women are facing during menopause.

Item 5

Gambling harm work - Martina provided an update on gambling harm and effects that computer games are having in getting kids into gambling.

There is a charity that provides a lot of resources - materials for young people, training for teachers. They are also keen to work with the Parent Council to develop resources for parents.

Some statistics are quite challenging.

There is an opportunity to provide some more information to young people to help them.

Mr Carson said that he has been liaising with the charity to try to confirm some dates. They are aiming to do some lessons for S2 and S3. Longer term the school is working with pastoral care about curriculum for PSE. Mr Carson said that there was engagement with Fast Forward.

Parent School is happy to work with this charity to develop some materials to chat about how we can take this forward. Martina will continue to take forward.

Martina asked the school whether there are other areas that the Parent Council can support. Karen advised that Digital Devices policy will be rolled out shortly with assemblies starting next week and more communication going out to parents to support this work. Karen was very happy with the support that the Parent Council and Parent Forum provided for this work.

Mr Carson provided an update on work on PSE curriculum building on the work Miss Campbell did on S1 PSE curriculum.

Mr Carson would also like to involve S6 leadership further in work with the Parent Council.

All curriculum leads are meeting on 27th September to discuss the quality of curriculum, making it more diverse.

Other priorities

High interest in Blackpool and looking at alternatives- most trips are booked / in place for this year but happy to consider alternatives for next year.

Litter picking – the school is going to become a litter hub for North West. Karen will send out more info once arrangements confirmed. John Muir continues for S1 and this also includes some litter picks throughout the year.

Happy to consider involvement with other groups but we do need to keep in mind planning that goes in to arrange and plan things.

Ali raised a point about vaping and the amount of people doing this now across the country. Karen says that changes to disposable vaping will hopefully help and the school continues to educate pupils on the concerns as well as link with parents.

Sandra wanted to follow up on the reward trip - does every pupil get a trip and would it be helpful to look at options for all pupils to have an opportunity.

Around 180-200 for Blackpool get an opportunity; a cinema trip is around 100 pupils.

Funding limitations would impact our options.

Area budget allows students to apply for primary and high school (£1000 for accommodation and £300 for bus). Reward is based on time keeping, school values and pantomime and Blackpool trips prioritising children in younger school groups.

There are also several curriculum trips which are wholly funded by the school.

Sam is very keen to support litter hub work for the school and is aware that this is part of sticking plaster to work on a wider cause behind this litter - consumption etc. Joined up thinking would be essential.

Karen will put Sam in touch with relevant groups.

Karen is happy to link with the parent who suggested looking at alternative options for reward trips or put her in touch with Mrs Campbell-Marzella (DHT) who is the school contact for trips.

Item 6

Headteacher report:

It has been a great start back to the term. S1 pupils have settled in very well. SQA results were very strong indeed once again.

Santiago Ricon Gallardo (Keynote Speaker at this year's Scottish Learning Festival) visited this school to meet with the senior leadership team about school leadership culture and school improvement. He then met with senior pupils and was full of praise for their leadership on equalities across the school and also at city level.

Education budget cuts remains challenging.

School commitment: ensure all learners leave Hillhead high with a range of qualifications at a level that allows them to progress onto a positive, ambitious and sustained destination.

Mr Richardson explained what qualifications give access for pupils in terms of further education:

- 1/2 higher / level 6 can access HNC/HND courses at college after school, and then onto university
- Pupils who achieve 4/5 higher can access most university courses
- Pupils who achieve 5 level 5 qualifications can access almost all apprenticeship opportunities, which are highly competitive
- Pupils who leave just with National 4s have more limited opportunities

The school is doing great work to support pupils from SIMD 1 - poorest areas performing well above national average. The school's performance can be demonstrated in all demographics, meaning all pupils have a great chance of success at the school.

Attainment data shows that all pupils compare extremely well to city, national and virtual comparator. These great results are down to a multitude of reasons – learning and teaching, support for pupils, partnerships and school values.

The school ethos is to prioritise each young person to give them a chance of best experience they can get. The school is not about statistics but it is comforting to see that our approaches improve our attainment. Martina thanked Mr Richardson for all the hard work that the school, teachers and pupils put in.

Item 7

Ali provided a finance update

Current balance: £6281.04 (safeguarded for minibus £4005.87). Ali had a very difficult time trying to get signatures changed and in the end raised a complaint which generated £200 for hassle in trying to get signatures changed.

Item 8

No further updates from Sam on work he has been doing.

Kiki advised that it has been fairly quiet on the ASN front. There has been some feedback but nothing has been generated into a wider, more coordinated approach. Parents are happy and supportive of an opportunity to get in touch with a dedicated mailbox and it has been appreciated.

Item 9 AOB

It is agreed that the next meeting will stay on zoom to avoid booking and re-booking rooms.