

**Parent Council Meeting 6th November 2023, via Zoom**

**Zoom Meeting**

**Present:** Amanda O’Donoghue (Chair), Geri Collins (HT), Linda Biggins (Clerk), Katie Ferguson (Pastoral Care), Julie Brown (Treasurer), Jennifer Cassidy, Gill Docherty, Joanne Ferguson, Alison Pearson, Julie Waugh (Maths Teacher), Jill Stevenson, Gail Thomson, Yla Barrie, Mr Gardiner

**Apologies:** Jacqueline Docherty, Karen Carruthers, Laura McInally

**Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Minutes of last meeting 9th October 2023 were approved

**Matters Arising**

Lockers

As you know the company who installed the vast majority of our lockers no longer exists. Thankfully we were able to call in a favour of one of the previous workers to replace all the batteries, which I believe is more complicated than it sounds. This took place over the October holidays and since then the lady who leads on lockers who only works on a Monday and a Tuesday, has been working her way through the year groups. The order has been firstly young people with an additional support needs then S1, S4, S5, S6 and next she will be looking at S2 and S3. We do apologise for the delay but our janitors have now been trained in the replacing batteries role so this should not be a problem in the future.

Amanda asked if there were enough lockers? Mrs Collins confirmed there were for those who wanted them. Julie asked if there were enough going forward? Mrs Collins advised it was not the cost of the lockers that was the biggest problem rather the storage space for the lockers. However, at present there were sufficient for all the children who wished them.

Gmail Account – Any progress? This has subseqently been set up.

**Head Teachers Report**

Primary 6/7 Information Evening

We had our annual P6/7 information evening on October 11th and as usual it was incredibly well attended. The feedback was entirely positive and I believe we have helped reassure a large number of our new S1 intake.

Bring a Tin/Non Uniform Day/Danceathon October 12th

I am delighted to say that young people brought over 1,200 items for our local foodbank, raised almost £400 through non-uniform day for our school fund and raised £240 for our danceathon which will go to Refueegee in Glasgow.

Raising Attainment Evening – 7x N5 Awards and 5 x H Awards

We were delighted at this year’s turn out for the raising attainment evening for the pupils working towards 7 x National 5 Awards in S4 or 5 x Higher Awards in S5. We do a great deal of work for the pupils out with this group including individual mentors, targeted supported study and Senior Ambassadors so it was lovely to make a fuss of this particular group. Specialised master classes will follow later in the session in the hope that everyone within this group achieve the best results they possibly can.

Appeals from session 2022/23

· There were no priority appeals this session – pupils that needed a quick response for a University or College offer.

· There were 98 non-priority appeals

· Some appeals were submitted directly by pupils and some by the school after discussion between teachers and pupils

· The final decision to appeal now lies with the pupil and we must honour these requests to appeal but we do try and discuss concerns with pupils

· No further evidence is submitted to support the appeal – original coursework and final exam papers have their marking reviewed

· Results are 9 – result upgraded, 0 – result downgraded

· Admin H – 1 x B to an A

· Art – 1 x B to an A at Higher / 1 x D to a C at Nat 5

· Biology – 1 x B to A at Higher

· D + M – 1 x C to a B at Higher / 1 x C to B at Nat 5

· English – 1 x B to A and 1 x C to B at Nat 5

· Maths – 1 x B to A at Maths Nat 5

· This is probably a higher amount of successful appeals than expected

· There is no feedback on decision taken and all decisions are now classed as final

Upcoming events:

S1 Online Safety Evening

We will be hosting an S1 Online Safety Evening on Wednesday 15th November from 7pm till 8pm. Tanya, our campus officer will be leading on this along with J Downie our ICT coordinator and representation from Pastoral Care. This evening will be open to all S1 parents and carers.

S4 Prelims

S4 Prelims will take place between Monday 21st November and Friday 2nd December. A copy of the S4 Prelim timetable was given to pupils on Thursday 2nd November. A copy will also be sent to parents and carers and put on the school website. S4 had an assembly this morning to discuss the timetable.

S1 Parents Evening Tuesday 7th November

S5/6 Tracking Report to Pupils Friday 10th November

S3 Tracking Report to Pupils Friday 17th November

**Strategy for Maths – Mr Gardiner (PT)**

Mr Gardiner joined parent council - as there had been a question raised from the Transition night. The way of teaching maths has significantly changed since parents went to school and is there a way in which this could be shown to parents so that they could better support their child(ren)? Mr Gardiner advised that the maths strategies were an extension of what was used in primary. He would be delighted to work with parents - either with a twilight session (after school hours) to teach the new ways of working or perhaps online - eg YouTube tutorials. Mrs Collins has asked Parent Council to reach out to the S1 parents (through parents evening the following night) to see what would work best going forward. Mr Gardiner also offered to have a table next to parent council with the maths workings visible in order for parents to ask further questions. Julie suggested online clips might have more longevity and could help the kids as they could also dip in and out of these when necessary (to revise). A number of the council members expressed that kids may be embarrassed in class and not wish to raise their hands. The videos may indeed last longer and reach more folk. This will be raised at parents night through a QR code/question box by parent council. Geri suggested they could start with the trouble topics and then expand out over time. Feedback from S1 evening - that online classes/videos would best support parents as it is difficult for in person attendance. This was shared with Mr Gardiner on the night.

This led to a wider discussion on engagement with the parent cohort. Volunteers made themselves known to attend the S1 night and it would be a mix of engagement - ie QR code and also "old school" with a flyer. It has been agreed that a gmail account would be set up - it has been, and is Hillparksecondarypc@gmail.com and it has been added to the school website.

**Any Other Business/Parent Questions answered**

Karen asked regarding SatchelOne and the deletion of access. Mrs Collins has issued an email to all parents how to recover their accounts. However, as a side note the school is moving towards Showbie. Glasgow City Council is looking for this to be used as it does not incur a cost and also has a Cloud therefore can store far more work. SatchelOne currently costs the school £7k per year and is taken from PEF funding. The school is eager to transition away from SatchelOne.

Amanda asked if the Mini Bus was back in action? Could anyone drive it? Mrs Collins confirmed that all drivers need a designated driver course (which actually takes teachers away from class for a week) so there are less drivers, but it is back operational.

Amanda asked with school funds being low - what is it that the school would like us to fund raise for - easy fundraising is up and running, but we can look for grants etc elsewhere. Mrs Collins confirmed that very difficult decisions were being made, especially for the over and above (ie awards/rewards etc). However, she will send out for a "wish list" to send onto the Parent Council and we can decide as a collective what we wish to go for. There are loads of things we could help with - costumes, pe kits, musical instruments, transport costs etc. Mrs Collins did say that one of the basketball hoops was in an accident and has been damaged. Insurance will not cover for it to be fixed and it is upwards of £1k, perhaps we could look at this?

Mrs Collins also advised that she would be looking (in the not too distant future) for helping the DYW co-ordinator with Mock Interviews for the older cohorts. Would parent council consider doing this - she will check back in with us next meeting.

Amanda asked if the library was open all the time? Mrs Collins confirmed that the librarian is shared with another school and hence it is open 50% of the time, however the English department also made good use of this space/resource. There are some small "works" outstanding but once completed she is keen to have a "relaunch" of this space. Noted as well that there are no plans in the future to move to digital books and do away with the space or the books which are contained there. It needs to be a safe and comfortable space. Mrs Ferguson confirmed it was open 3 lunchtimes per week.

Mrs Waugh gave an update on the Malawi trip: They had interviewed all the children who had put in an application and selected 24. Children will need to fundraise £3k each + collectively an additional £10k+ for a project when they are out in Malawi as well as for extra costs. Noted that this will be an amazing experience for the children/staff, and although 24 had been chosen natural attrition will lessen the numbers. The trip is in June 2025. Fundraising is about to kick off - so look out for this.

A query regarding pathways for the children was raised - how are the kids steered from Nat 4/5, Nat 5 to Higher what is appropriate, what is too much of a stretch, are the subjects right for career choice etc? Mrs Collins agrees this is an important topic and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

Jennifer asked why Nat 5/Higher & Advanced Higher are all in the same class in Drama this year? How does this work? Mrs Collins confirmed that wherever possible they will have a separate class, but this is not always possible. Not all subjects can be combined in this way but in Drama it is possible and the teacher who is taking this class is very experienced and is able to tailor lessons to cover all three stages.

Alison asked if there was a feedback form for the attainment evening? She kindly passed on feedback that we may need to consider non visual learners. Mrs Collins will follow up and make sure a feedback form is sent out.

**Chair, Correspondence & Treasurer report**

Nothing further this evening, and all correspondence has been issued. Treasurer confirmed that the Bank Account balance has not changed however 4 more parents had joined easy fundraising.

**Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 4th December 2023, via Zoom