Annan Academy Parent Council Minutes

Date: Tuesday 5th November at 6pm

In attendance: Sarah Vallance, Rachel Nicholson, Allan Hogg, Julie Fletcher, Heather Smith, Nick Martin, Liane Simpson, Stacy Wigham and Ewan Murray (HT).

Apologies: Vicky Kier, Isobel St John-Claire and Cllr George Jamieson who was meant to attend to discuss Council Budget Cuts.

**Minutes from Previous Meeting**

The minutes from the previous meeting were discussed and everyone was in agreeance that they were an accurate representation of the meeting.

The only item that needed to be clarified was how much money had been agreed to be given to Disability Sports as this had not been recorded in the minutes.

**Headteachers Report – written version to be submitted to go with minutes from EM**

Key Points

* The Council Budget cuts were discussed and members were advised to look at the Council Website for more information with regards to these.
* After the council withdrawing staffing cuts in secondary 3 new teaching positions have become available to the school from January 2025 to June 2025. These will focus on raising attainment, through giving an intensive intervention to those who need it. These positions are likely to be filled by Primary Teachers.
* The parent council were also advised that the school is in the process of updating policies especially the use of personal mobile phones as they are proving to be a major problem, especially in regards to social anxiety. This policy would need to be reviewed with the whole school community, redrafted, consulted and then redrafted before the publication.
* The homework policy also needs updated and reviewed this was a point that was agreed with by the PC. Both HS and SW advised that their children in first year had experiences issues with homework, especially one week when they had, had to revise for 6 tests in the same week. EM agreed that this should not have happened and that a curriculum review is currently taking place that should help to align these issues.
* A curriculum change/review is currently taking place at Annan Academy, with a major review of the BGE (Broad General Curriculum) especially for S3 who are now completing their National 4 and 5’s over two years rather than 1, like the rest of Scotland.

Copy of Mr Murray, Head Teachers report

Parent council 05/11/24

HT report

This week all pupils are attending remembrance services lead by our captaincy team. They will attend the town remembrance service in the town on Sunday and lay a wreath on behalf of the school.

This week we were told that we would be receiving funding to appoint three teachers from January to June in order to raise attainment. These appointments will be advertised as BGE teachers to allow primary specialists to apply. Their role will be to help a targeted strategy of supporting S3 and S4 pupils to maximise their attainment.

There have been several requests in from various departments for funding. It has been decided that a school committee will be formed and set out an annual plan for fundraising. This fund will be used to fund additional requests from school and will link n directly with the parent council regarding fundraising.

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| **Discussion Points** | **Actions** | **When** |
| Funding Requests* Disability Sports were discussed in relation to the funding request from the last meeting. It was highlighted that the Primary Pack is a starter kit and not in fact a kit to be used by Primary schools, therefore (VK) does not need to contact the cluster primaries. It was discussed that (RN) would contact (KWJ) to see what piece of equipment would be the priority.
* Disability Sport have also requested if any funding would be available to help with the cost of travel to events.
* (EM) notified the Parent Council that Mr Brown (Principal Teacher Physical Education) had requested £900 funding support for transport for sporting events.
* (EM) also notified the PC that Mr Brand (Principal Teacher Expressive Arts) has requested £2000 funding towards a piano.
* (EM) notified the PC that part of the Learning Plaza is going to be converted into a Coffee Shop for the senior school – DYW (Developing Young Workforce) Coordinator Susan Copeland has asked if any money would be available to support this.
* It was also brought to the attention of the PC that Mr Brand has also asked for match funding to go towards an Outward-Bound Course for S3.
 | * RN to contact KWJ with regards to Disability Sports request.
* It was decided in the next meeting this would be a focus to try and ascertain where the money was going to be spent and to consider fundraising opportunities and maximising on those already in place like the Rag Bag and Easy Fundraising.
 | * 3rd December 2024
* 3rd December 2024
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| Fundraising* Considering the above points, a fundraising committee was discussed who would be solely in charge of fundraising events. This is something that has been present in the school in the past with a lead teacher and representatives from the school along with the PC.

**Ideas for fundraising** * Asda rewards were discussed (although this is only available to the end of the year.
* Chapelcross Snowball Fund – application to be considered for this once we have more details on what sort of things we can use it for.
 | * EM to discuss with staff to see if anyone would be willing to coordinate this.
* AH to contact Site Director at Chapelcross for more information.
 | * February meeting
* 3rd December 2024
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| Prominence of the Parent Council within the school* It was brought to the attention of the Parent Council that the First-Year parents did not receive information about the Parent Council. SW advised that when she phoned the school to ask the office, they were unable to give her any information with regards to the chair and dates of the meetings.
* Wider representation from the school at the PC meetings especially from Promoted Staff and Pupil Captaincy Team.
 | * Flyer to be made for P7/S1 parents about the Parent Council to be handed out at the P7 information evening on Wednesday 13th November. (SW)
* Members of the PC to be present at the information evening on Wednesday 13th November. To try and raise the profile of the PC. (SV/?)
* A section to be created on the school website for the PC to upload minutes and usual information. SV to contact Mr P Johnstone with regards to this.
* Minutes to be forwarded to EM to be shared with Heads of Departments, so that they are aware of what is being discussed at meetings. (SV)
* Invites to promoted staff and Pupil Captaincy team to attend, once agreed topics of meetings have been established.
* Date of next meeting to be placed on the School App/Facebook page so that parents are aware of meeting. (SV to contact school)
 | * 11th November 2024 at the latest so these can be printed.
* Wednesday 13th November 2024
* 3rd December 2024
* Topics to be agreed on at meeting on 3rd December 2024
* Week commencing 18th November 2024
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**Next meeting**

Tuesday 3rd December 2024 at 6pm in the Learning Plaza at Annan Academy. EM advised that he will be unable to attend due to school commitments.

**Themes of next meeting**

Fundraising and calendar of topics for future meetings so that relevant Promoted Staff can attend.