**PARENT COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 12TH October 2016**

Attendees Apologies

Catriona Pettigrew-Smith,Chair Emma Keyes, Treasurer

Margaret Forbes, Secretary Gillian Carroll, Parent

Barrie Sheppard, Parent

Lynn Ross, Parent

Kirsty McKinnell, Parent

Audrey Smith, Parent

Lynn Hutcheson, Parent

Mark Cairns, Head Teacher

Morag Sweeney, Clerk

Chairperson’s report

CPS confirmed that there are now only 13 members in the current PC with constitution allowing for a maximum of 20 members. There was no additional uptake from AGM. The Group will need to look at recruitment ideas. CPS attended ‘Support your Child’ & UCAS workshop. The workshop was very informative and involved much brain storming. In attendance were former pupils who discussed the trial & tribulations of how difficult the process can be.

The National Parent Forum Survey re the Review of the Scottish School (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 to be put onto website for completion.

Treasurer’s Report

No report given in EK’s absence.

Head Teacher’s Report

MC advised that things are moving as previously advised re the new build. It is hoped there will be machinery visible on site shortly after the financial close at the beginning of the year and there have been no red flags to contradict this.

The new S1 appear to have settled in well. Staff are happy and the Pupil Support team are holding one to one interviews to ensure all is well. Pupil Support are considering inviting S1 parents’ in to chat so concerns may be raised in an effort to meet pupil needs. The Team will evaluate whether the meetings are beneficial enough to take forward as more pastoral than academic.

School Improvement Plan – MC is keen to extend parental involvement in the school improvement groups. SIP consists mainly of departmental plans and HMI report. There are three main SIGs. Staff volunteer for each groups with the plan to include parents and pupils. The first of the meetings will take place during the inset day in November and thereafter at the end of the school day. Parents will be kept up to date with minutes from the meetings. In addition to the 3 main groups are 3 short life

working groups. MC looking for parental support here too, in particular, to look at the reporting side of things for 2017/18. MC will chair the group.

Staff don’t hold any value to the one period of Personal Support in the week. It is felt that perhaps and additional period is required.

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Senior Phase – HMI felt CA not meeting the legal requirement for religious observance in the senior phase, the Chaplain assemblies are insufficient.MC to look at this.

S5 Elective period – is this the best use of time? The timetable throughout the whole of NL is 5 x double periods with the remaining three used for Personal Support, Skills for Life and Elective.

Parents need to shape the future of the school. PC should represent the views of the parents. Need a survey to be issued to the parent forum to collate views in order that the PC know what the issues are so an agenda can be put in place to prioritise improvements required with communication being a key factor.MC has personally written to the young people who helped at the recent showcase evening. It was agreed that the website needs to be reviewed, particularly the PC page. MC to procure the views of Staff, Parents, Pupils but to distribute to PC before the wider audience.

Parent Council Health Check

CPS raised the issue of what were the expectations and the role of the PC within the school and Parent Forum.

Male/ Female ratio – how do we address this.

Parental Views - How does the group represent parent views if the views are not sought. How do we solicit parental views

Is the group accessible – how should this be this done? Email? Obtain address via SByers

S1 - How should new S1 parents be targeted/issue letter

Facebook – Should there be a closed Facebook page

CA Website needs to be reviewed and brought up to date as not easy to navigate especially PC page

Primary Parent Council Meetings – should there be reciprocal attendance

Training Sessions

The list of NLC training courses were discussed. Little interest shown as it is felt they are geared more to Primary than Secondary.

Fund Raising

It was agreed that perhaps this should be put on the back boiler at present as there are insufficient members to take forward

AOCB

LR raised the point of perhaps the members should learn about each others skills and what can be brought to the table. It was agreed that this was a great idea and should be taken forward.

CPS asked the group to think about ideas for a newsletter about the parent council to be issued to the parent forum.

Date of Next Meetings

Wednesday 30th November 2016 @6.45pm

Wednesday 1St February 2017 @ 6.45pm

Wednesday 22nd March 2017 @ 6.45pm

Wednesday 12th May 2017 @ 6.45pm.