

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 8th October 2019 at 6.45pm

Attendees

Catriona Pettigrew-Smith (Chair)
Ann McEachern (Parent)
Fiona MacFarlane (Parent)
Lorna McQuillan (Parent)
Tom Fisher (Parent)
Linda McCann McGlynn (Parent)
Mark Cairns (Head Teacher)
Alison Lamb (Principal Teacher-Attendance)
Ian Morrison (Deputy Head Teacher)

Apologies

Elaine McLaughlin, Margaret Forbes, Gary Waugh, Audrey Smith, William Goldie, Gillian Fannan

Minutes of Last Meeting

Accepted

Chairperson's Report

- Lesley Cochrane will be stepping down from the Parent Council
- Primary 7 Showcase Evening happening on Thursday 10 October 2019
- Donations to Christmas Hamper - as previous years Catriona Pettigrew-Smith (CPS) to send Parent Council members e-mail with suggested donation for them to include in the Christmas Hampers to be raffled at the Christmas Fayre.
- Pupil Trust Fund, pupils have now been made aware of this in school, expecting e-mail applications from pupils during the month of October.
- CPS will be attending Parent Consultative Group Meeting (networking meeting) on 09 October 2019.

Treasurers Report

No change since previous meeting, nothing to report.

Primary 7 Showcase Evening

Mark Cairns (MC) advised in previous years this event was used to showcase the school building, however last year it was decided to increase time spent in the classroom and focus on Learning & Teaching, which provided positive feedback. Decision has been made to run with the same format this year and parents/pupils will have a choice of classes to attend and teaching time will be around 15 minutes in each class. MC stated that they will offer a tour of the school at a later date. CPS asked for volunteers to attend the evening on behalf of the Parent Council, Ann McEachern (AMcE) offered to attend.

Attendance Project

MC provided background to the new role held by Alison Lamb (AL) to improve attendance within the school. AL will be looking at a range of ideas to improve attendance and communication with parents/carers. AL would also like to engage with the Parent Council in this matter.

AL was in attendance and advised one of the current strategies she is working on in order to improve attendance is to send parents/carers a text message a few times each term so they are aware of their child's level of attendance and late comings. The text system was trialled with 3 of the Parent Council

members at this meeting and feedback was positive. AL also advised e-mail messages were being considered as these were free to send but not all parents/carers have provided e-mail addresses.

A page on the school website will be set up detailing the impact attendance has on achievement and providing attendance statistics to grades achieved.

Suggestion was made that it may be beneficial to include a link to the webpage, when set up, on the text messages sent out to provide information more readily for parents/carers and to ensure the text messages sent show clearly who it is from.

A discussion continued around attendance with AL advising that less than 5% of parents/carers respond to late texts sent out by the school if the child is not in school by 10.30am.

AL will be looking at re-drafting letter in relation to attendance, in particular the letter issued when parents/carers are taking their children out of school for an unauthorised parental holiday. MC suggested this is something that members of the Parent Council could be involved with.

AL is keen that parents are aware her role is provide support and give guidance. Alison is currently working with a group of 4th year pupils who were non-attenders and progress has been made in trying to get these pupils into school for a period of time each day.

In addition another strategy put forward by AL is to award Attendance Merits to pupils, including pupils who were non-attenders but have now managed to attend school for short periods of time.

Christmas Fayre

This years Fayre is being held on Wednesday 27th November. Ian Morrison (IM) confirmed that the Parent Council will be able to set up stalls in both the assembly hall and social area. Both areas will be booked for use on the night. Tom Fisher (TF) offered to provide a van and tables if necessary.

Next meeting concerning the Christmas Fayre will be held on 22nd October 2019.

New Building

IM confirmed dates the new building outside work would be finished:

Car Park - 20th January 2020

Outside pitches - Laid by April 2020.

Parental Engagement Project

Vicki Hart leading this and is looking at local and national guidance on Parental Engagement she is also researching links between disengagement and poverty. Vicki will attend the next parent council meeting to discuss Parental Engagement of the most disaffected.

Parent Charter

CPS advised after discussion at previous meeting complex language removed from Parent Charter. The charter is focussing on parent from S1-3. Plan is to roll out the Parent Charter at Primary 7 information evening in January.

Pupil Parliament

This years school captains are leading the set up of the Pupil Parliament this year aiming for it to start in August 2020. MC has spoken to the captains and they will attend the next meeting as keen to engage with the Parent Council.

The idea of the Pupil Parliament is to look at how the Scottish Parliament operates, have committees set up, look at the school improvement plan, look at motions and have pupils vote on issues.

This years captains and vice captains along with other pupils who will be involved going forward will visit other North Lanarkshire Schools that have Pupil Parliaments (Greenfaulds and Chryston) as well as visiting other sites including Edinburgh. Ideas will be taken up from these visits but aim is to have own parliament individual to Cumbernauld Academy.

It is possible that this years captains will set up a committee looking a Climate Change to measure success for set up of the Parliament next year.

AOB

CPS was approached by a parent enquiring when the S5 parents evening was being held, this is shown on the Curricular Calendar on the App but is not shown on the Dates page of the App.

Question was raised if it would be possible to cross populate the Curricular Calendar to the Dates page of the APP and also website. Neil Hendry is responsible for this, MC advised he would raise with Neil and also ask him to attend the next meeting.

Next Meeting

Wednesday 4th December 2019 at 6.45pm