



AHS Parent Council Meeting Minute & Action Tracker

**Thursday 02 February 2023
6:00pm**

Present:	Kenny Pottinger (Chair), Carrie McDonald (Vice Chair), Hazel Shearer, Ayesha Huda, Gowri Saravanan, Louise Milne, Valerie Nicolson (Head Teacher), Cameron Mackenzie (Teacher Rep), Nick McCaffrey (Co-opted Member), Dawn Ratter (Clerk)
Apologies:	Amanda Hawick, Anna Moar, Andy Thompson, Jerry Edwards, Jim Anderson, Helen Kerr (Staff Rep)

Agenda No	Matters Arising	Information / Action	Person(s) Responsible
1	Welcome	The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2	Minutes of 16 November 2022	The minutes were approved by CM and seconded by HS.	
3	Matters Arising	<u>Piano Instruction</u> VN spoke with SIC Children's Services – any queries regarding individual pupils should be directed to Children's Services, as Instructor provision is managed directly by the service	
4	Head Teachers Report	<u>School Roll</u> The school roll currently stands at 985 pupils. VN expressed some concerns over attendance which was sitting at 83% today. The running average attendance for the school has historically been around 92%. Attendance over the last 3 weeks has been 90.5%, 89.2% and 86.4%. VN will write to parents again next week with the SIC attendance leaflet. Absences are across the whole school. A Huda thought the amount of snow days and teacher strikes may have had an impact on this. There is concern around readiness for prelims due to the disruption to the school timetable and absences this term. <u>Staffing Up-date</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructor of CDT (temp) – Mr Webb, Mr Szucs and Mr Jamieson are now in post. • Instructor of Home Economics (temp) – Mrs Mann is now in post. 	

The temporary CDT instructors are working really well. They are only qualified to deliver the curriculum to S1-3 but they can support practical work of individual senior pupils.

Vacant Posts

- Teachers of CDT – 1 vacant post, currently re-advertised again, and 1 post has a preferred candidate from August 2023.
- Teacher of Physical Education - Mrs Phillips is covering part of the vacant maternity leave post.
- Teacher of Home Economics – we have preferred candidate from August 2023.
- Learning Support Workers – 2 posts awaiting completion of recruitment processes.

Beanfeasts

The two postponed Beanfeasts were held, successfully, in the New Year (S5/6, then S3/4).

Prelims

The S4 prelims are now complete, and the S5/6 diet begins tomorrow, Friday 3rd February. A number of after school revision sessions are now taking place.

Industrial Strike Action

The school will be closed on Monday 6th February as this is a local strike day for some teaching unions. This is the last day of a national cycle of strike action. It is possible that two further national strike days will be held on Tuesday 28th February and Wednesday 1st March, immediately after the long weekend.

Information Evenings

The S3 Information Evening will be held online on Tuesday 7th February and the S2 Parents' Evening is on Wednesday 8th February. The S4 Parents' Evening is Wednesday 15th February. S4 will have an online Information Evening on Wednesday 1st March, subject to strike action.

Easter Study Support

An Easter Study Support programme has been confirmed. A programme of revision sessions will be shared with pupils.

Current Project with Anchor/SIC Community Development and/or Health and Well Being Evening

		<p>AnnMarie Scollay, Depute Head Teacher is working with staff from Community Development and Anchor for Families who are planning an evening in May around making affordable meals and bringing S1 families together to eat. Anchor are now going to do some market research around what families would like to be offered. AHS staff in Home Economics and the Canteen will support the event.</p> <p>This topic ties in well with the Health and Well Being event the Parent Council were interested in arranging. The suggested themes for the Health and Well Being event are: Mental Health, Drugs and Alcohol, Sexual Health and Harm Reduction. All parent members present feel an event of this type is needed and should go ahead if all agencies are willing to present. VN will approach agencies to see if they would be willing to attend/present an event. A provisional date of Wednesday 29th March was set.</p> <p><u><i>United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)</i></u> UNCRC has become a priority for all Scottish schools as it has now been embraced in Scottish legislations. There are 54 articles and protocols – https://www.unicef.org/media/56661/file. This poster is displayed on every classroom door in the school.</p> <p>A staff working group has been set up and all staff have attended training sessions on the principles of UNCRC. The two Student Representatives Councils are now starting to consider how to promote the key themes. VN informed the members that many of the principles are taught historically through social subjects.</p>	V Nicolson
5	Parent Stakeholder representation in Head Teacher recruitment	<p>VN is reporting on this item as she is neutral in this process. KP and CM are to be part of the recruitment process for the new head teacher and will be present on the interview panel as the Chair and Vice Chair. The policy document outlines that the Director and the Executive Manager or the Quality Improvement Officer for the school, along with two Parent Council Representatives and a peer head teacher will form the interview panel.</p> <p>The candidates have all been notified, and the interviews will be held on Tuesday 14th February. As part of the interview process, there will be 3 separate stakeholder groups. The selected candidates will have a formal interview with the interview panel, and then they will go to a different venue where they will meet these stakeholder groups – a group of parents, pupils and staff. Each candidate will have a short question and answer session with each group.</p> <p>The school has now been asked to go ahead and form the pupil group and staff group. VN has been asked by James Johnston, Quality Improvement Officer to collate the names of 3</p>	

		<p>volunteers from the parent council to form the parental stakeholder. James will then contact the volunteers and arrange a meeting in advance of the interviews. A Huda feels that the parent council does not fully represent the whole school/parent body. VN noted there is no detailed guidance in the recruitment process around panel membership.</p> <p>The parent volunteers are A Huda and H Shearer. The parent members suggested asking if the offer can be extended to the members of the parent council who are absent tonight. VN will feedback to James with the 2 volunteer names and ask if he can facilitate, through Dawn, to ask the other parent members not present tonight if anyone else would be willing to volunteer.</p>	V Nicolson
6	Parent Comments	<p><u>Industrial Strike Action</u></p> <p>A Huda noted she fully supports the teachers participating in the recent strike action, and understands the reasons why they are striking but also feels sad on a personal level on the impact it is having on the children, following the recent years of disruptions to their learning.</p>	
7	AOCB	None.	

DATE OF AGM AND NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 6:00pm.