



Harlaw Academy Parent Council

Minutes

Thursday 27th April 2017

Present

Carol Eddie (Chair), Catriona Allan (Vice Chair), David Innes (Head Teacher), Elizabeth Robertson (Treasurer), Lynne Gowans (Secretary), Skye Iversen, Tyler McCraw, Murdo MacLean, Paul O'Connor, Tom Whyte, Mary Michie, Jacqui Lang.

Apologies

Carol Bremner, Astrid Raynard, Lynette Knowles

02. Minutes of previous Parent Council Meeting on 24st November 2016

Carol Eddie invited any comments or corrections of the Minutes from the last Parent Council. Murdo advised that a couple of filing cabinets were now waiting to be dropped off at school, which were surplus to a local company, desks were also offered but too large for school requirements.

03. Chairperson's Report

Welcome to everyone to meeting especially Paul O'Connor from Inchgarth Community Centre and Tom Whyte, who are both here to speak at tonight's meeting about wider achievement and opportunities. Carol thanked Skye, Tyler and Astrid on behalf of the parent council, for their input at meetings, which has been very interesting, complete with polished presentations.

04. School Report

Headmasters Report;

Staffing: Update, interviews taking place next week for computing, science, modern studies and modern languages, this is good news and hopefully will result in vacant positions being filled quickly.

School Improvement Plan, this went out to staff this week, Mr Innes to speak to pupils about the plan, any ideas or comments, please contact Mr Innes.

A good meeting took place with education department and facility management, regarding the schools estate management and upkeep, discussions will be ongoing. Fire doors, it was pointed out that this should be picked up as a priority by Aberdeen City Council rather than the school.

Closing the poverty gap, at least 90 families at Harlaw are including in this initiative, 50k funding has been set aside for this, current school roll is just over 900 pupils, and money is available from P1-S3 years.

Harlaw Academy Parent Council Harlaw Academy 18-20 Albyn Place Aberdeen AB10 1RG

Parental Engagement, Survey Monkey is now up and running, Parent Council contribution has now been agreed to help with this.

Mr Innes looking for help from Parent Council to choose pupils from S5/6 for senior prefect rolls, Catriona Allan advised she may be available to help.

Jacqui Lang asked how the school was going about replacing activities week. Mr Innes advised S1 & 2 were taking part in a forest walk, and other activities would take place throughout the year. Mr Innes to send out letter advising parents. (DI) this is in-line with other local schools.

Pupil Report: Ideas Hub is now being piloted at Harlaw Academy, Harlaw possibly the first school to launch this initiative. Three categories, improving school, improving city and improving local community. 3k in pot to allow for good ideas to go ahead, match funding could also be available. App is currently a work in progress but hub can be accessed from school computers or home computers at present. Approval of ideas carried out by senior pupils and house captains, Mr Innes may get involved if more complex ideas have to be agreed. Pupils use their own school i.d. to log in, this enables all comments to be traced back to them. For ideas suggested out with school, the local community would also be contacted. House points will be made available to encourage pupils to use the system, these points could possibly be converted to rewards for charitable organisations via Young Scot, Cash for Kids etc. Paul O'Connor asked if there was a mechanism for pupils to communicate with the school electronically, Tyler explained Google Classroom was used for pupils and Groupcall for parents and carers. Mr Innes agreed to produce guide for parents on Google Classroom (DI).

Mr Whyte – Wider Achievement: Mr Whyte spoke about wider achievement and showed the parent council some slides, explaining wider achievement in more detail. Some student senate and Leos pupils are also helping with this project. Wider achievement is there to support successful, responsible and confident individuals and enable global citizenship for all young people, through opportunities, to achieve transferable skills for work and life. It aims to build confidence, a sense of identity and self-esteem for all pupils. We want all pupils to strive, aspire and achieve.

Opportunities are available for all, with some being nationally recognized and certificates awarded. Duke of Edinburgh participants can apply for a Saltire Award. Twitter has helped make achievements more visible to pupils and parents. A new S1-3 youth group has now been set up. Skills classes taking place to allow pupils to state which skills they have, building confidence for the wider world. An intergenerational team met at Ferryhill Court, along with Silver City Surfers, this was a great success.

Information regarding opportunities will come out via the daily bulletin. BP student tutor Steph Hewitt has been a great help with project.

Wider achievement ceremony awards will take place in June, a formal power point/video montage of year to be shown, Peter Johnston to be asked as guest speaker. Skye will attend in person and Astrid and Tyler will prepare video in their absence. Special house awards and academic awards will also be presented.

Paul O'Connor, Manager at Inchgarth Community Centre (and Director of ACVO), came along to speak about the community centre and what it has to offer to both children and families in the local area. The centre caters for all ages and walks of life. Harlaw pupils and parents have helped supply food items to the centres foodbank. Inchgarth are delighted to sponsor Harlaw's Wider Achievement Awards and play a part in helping pupils with wider achievement with the activities they provide. Paul has recently spoken to third year pupils about the importance of volunteering and the rewards and sense of achievement gained by pupils who take part.

Paul handed out the comprehensive brochure for Inchgarth Community Centre, it was suggested that parent council meetings in future could be held at local community center's, to try and engage more parents and make it easier for them to attend in their local area. Spirit of Community awards will be taking place at Inchgarth on 30th June, all are welcome.

Information on local community center's to be displayed on pupil notice boards. (DI)

05. Treasurers Annual Report

Year End Accounts

	Miscellaneous	£100.00	
	Sub Total		£940.00
Balance as at end March 2017	Cash	Nil	
	Bank	£206.27	
	Sub Total		£206.27
Total	£1,146.27	Total	£1,146.27

Income to start	£261.27
Council Payment	£885.00
Total Spend for year	£1,146.27

Clerk Payments x 4	£240.00
Survey Monkey	£300.00
Contribution to School Prizes	£300.00
Miscellaneous (book tokens)	£100.00

NB: £206.27 left, 3 x clerk fees still to be deducted before budget is received from council.

06. PTA report: Successful Murder Mystery evening took place on 21st April, format was really good. Harlaw pupils performed at Rock Challenge. More involvement required from both staff and parents, more informal meeting to take place in future.

07. Former Pupil Report: Buffet night took place on 24th February, Mary thanked Mr & Mrs Innes for attending. Prof Lorna Dawson gave a fascinating talk and Mr Innes was awarded as an honorary president of the FP's for his great and valued support. Annual dinner took place on 15th April, Skye, Astrid and Tyler attended and Skye gave a presentation on what's happening currently at Harlaw Academy. The annual magazine will be ready May/June and copies will be handed into school. Coffee morning taking place in September, all welcome. Memorabilia meetings still taking place regularly. Harlaw pupils have been involved in wider achievement activities taking place at Charles Michie's café, along with the Silver City Surfers.

08. Parent Council Meetings for 2017

Focussed meeting 24/8/17

Other PC meetings

14/9/17

9/11/17

25/1/18

19/4/18

7/6/18

09. A.O.B: Carol thanked Murdo MacLean for his parent council support over the last few years, especially during the difficult time when Harlaw was possibly under threat of closure.