

Harlaw Academy

Parent Council Meeting

Monday 11th February 2020

6.30pm

<u>Agenda Item</u>	
<p>1. <u>Welcome and Apologies</u></p>	<p>Apologies: Jacqui Lang, Lorraine McCoig, Michael Hutchison</p>
<p>2. <u>Points from Previous Meeting</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Previous Minutes – approved by Ruth and seconded by Tara• School Security – In School update.• ASDA Tokens - Tara to send contact to Lyndsay• Groupcall – There can only be 1 main contact on Groupcall. If parents are separated/ live in different houses, then please speak to the school to see what they can do.• Sanitary bins – conformation they are emptied on a 6-weekly basis and this seems sufficient• Car Park Charging – Council have said no to the PC charging cars to park at weekends• Water bottles – Inventory to be carried out and then decide if we are to buy more.• Thank You Plaques – Photos sent to AIA and they would like to use these on their social media. Really good photos and the airport are very thankful for them. Just waiting on 1 consent form to be returned so they can be used. 2 other plaques are in the process of being put up.• Music Concerts – There will be no Summer concert, but a show will run instead (Beauty & the Beast) date to be confirmed and shared with parents and wider community. Possibility of Parent Council having a tea/ coffee fundraiser at the shows. To be confirmed.• Talent Show – Possibility of one running between Summer and Christmas term, being led and organised by an S5 pupil.• Uniform Update – David met with pupils to discuss. Pupils are happy with the uniform, although discussed the option of a hoodie being introduced. This discussion came following a request from an individual parent at the previous Parent Council meeting. The pupils are happy and feel they should be allowed to wear what they want. There was also a discussion about skirt shaming.
<p>3. <u>Parent Council Update</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Careers Fayre – Catriona & Ruth are going to attend the Grammar careers evening to get ideas for our 20/21 event.• Christmas Concert – Catriona attended, and it was a great event – thank you to the school for organising.• Radisson Art Exhibition – Excellent event and great to see pupils work displayed

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head Teacher Selection – Ruth & Catriona were involved in the recent interview panel and It was a very interesting experience. If anyone would like to do the HR Recruitment training, please let the Parent Council know. • Treasurer Update – Currently have £850 in the bank. We have 3 pending payments - £265 for the Author event for S1 to be paid out and 2 incoming payments of £730 from the Quiz night and £68.50 from water bottle sales. Discussion around what we would like to spend money on, still keen to get more equipment/ benches in the playground. Discussion also around asking for a donation for parents for one off event such as the author or robotics event. Decided that we could ask for part payment and the Parent Council would pay the rest. We need to be mindful of poverty proofing and Catriona is going to attend the next City-Wide Parent Forum event to get an update on the guidance. • Fundraising update – The quiz night was a great evening and well enjoyed by those who attended. It has been seen that events like this are harder to organise in secondary than they are in primary school. We recently met with the Pupil Voice committee to gather their ideas for events and they came up with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dances/ Discos – side lined for now due to practicalities - Competitions/ activities – we are going back to pupils to gather more information as this is quite broad - Sports Day – more events for those not competing - Bake Sales – possibly look at this through an Inter- House activity - End of term event – keen to pursue this, possible summer BBQ/ celebration inviting the P6/7 families from feeder schools - Murder mystery event <p>They made it clear they didn't want any sort of craft fayres though an International Fayre like Ferryhill School showcasing the diversity of Haralw could be looked into.</p> <p>When planning an event, a checklist of responsibilities will be drafted so that the school and committee know who is responsible for what.</p> <p>Feedback from the quiz was that it was rushed – is it possible to have longer lets?</p>
<p><u>4. School Update</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMle Report is now live on the Education Scotland website and link been sent out via Xpressions. New Head teacher has been appointed and will start the first week in March. He will also attend the 2 in service days in February to meet staff. For the interim period Mr Blance will step up to ensure a smooth transition. Mr Innes felt this was a good time to retire due to the inspectors coming back in 18 months and to let the new Head Teacher lead change. It wasn't the most positive experience for the school and Mr Innes is disappointed with the gradings. He is also going to feed back that 12 years between inspections is very unfair.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a draft action plan in place, however this will be amended by the incoming Head Teacher to develop it further with support from Parent Council, Pupils and staff to shape it up • There is an internal review currently going on in school where classes are being observed and feedback is given. There is also going to be 6 officers visiting on 6th March to Quality Assure the school as part of an ongoing council priority happening across the city. • SLT had been looking into the option of 7 subject choices and how this could be done. However, due to a Scottish Government review of the Curriculum for Excellence this will be put on hold until the results of this have been published in case that calls for more change • SLT passed their apologies to the senior school pupils and their parents with not getting core PE, PSE and RME sessions. This was picked up in the inspection and is now being looked at. The school are being creative with how this will be offered and will be looking at practical ways this can be delivered across the curriculum. • School Security – a fence has been investigated but this has been very complex due to the school being a listed building. A hedge along the front is looking like the better option with the possibility of gates too. There is also discussion about making the front a no access to traffic but the front has to be accessible. It is an ongoing issue with the council but must now be a priority due to safety and security being mentioned in the report. Also looking at getting the 20 mile an hour zone extended to be in front of the school • Levels of attendance have improved, and exclusion levels have dropped as the school continue to look at other options • The designs for the quiet garden murals are to be in by Easter and Drew McIntyre has incorporated this as part of his curriculum. • Exam Leave – Mixed response to the reduced study leave. However, prelims aren't what they used to be and more of a focus is on the whole year body of evidence. For ASN Parents, exams in a large block are harder therefore a wider look at it is appreciated. It was asked at the meeting if official feedback has been sought. This will be actioned. • Engagement with Parents – looking at increasing how the school engage with all parents by examining different medias and this will be handed over to the new Head Teacher. • Improvement Plan - Catriona to meet with new Head Teacher to discuss when this will be shared with parents.
<p><u>5. Former Pupil Report</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Lunch – held at the Douglas hotel and had a really good turn out and was a lovey event • Annual Buffet - being held on the 28th February at Rubislaw Church. Everyone welcome. Tickets are £10 and can be purchased on the door. • The FP's were very sad to hear of Mr Innes retiring. He has always been so helpful and supportive of the group and they really do appreciate it. The memorabilia club wouldn't have started without

<p><u>6. AOB</u></p>	<p>him. They would like to thank Mr Innes for everything and wish him a long and happy retirement.</p> <p>Parent Question – Do senior pupils get class photos? They do. Photos are taken in 1st and 4th year with a group one in 6th</p> <p>Parent Question – Can the Roadwise presentation be shared with parents? It was a live interactive event and there isn't a video of it as such. There is sometimes a parent's event the evening before and this will be shared with parents when information is available</p> <p>Parent Question – Is there an official DofE presentation at the Beach Ballroom this year? School will find out and feedback</p> <p>Date of next meeting to be confirmed once Catriona has met with our new Head Teacher.</p>
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