

Harlaw Academy

Parent Council AGM

Thursday 17th June 2021

4.30pm via Google Meets

| <u>Agenda Item</u> | |
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| 1. <u>Welcome and Apologies</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome: Catriona (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.• Apologies: Timi Ejiofoh, Emma Williams, Julie King, Louise Beaton, Mrs Rennie, Councillor Nicoll, Rachael Price |
| 2. <u>Re Election</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ruth & Catriona have been in post for 3 years and need to be re- elected. <p>Votes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Catriona Allan as Chair - Approved – Katherine Anderson• Second – Lorraine McCoig • Ruth Adair as Vice Chair - Approved - Katherine Anderson• Second – Lorraine McCoig |
| 3. <u>Previous Minutes</u> | <p>Water bottles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There were not enough for the new S1 intake. 600 more have been ordered and this will cover the 22/23 intake also. <p>Just Giving</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All the money up to 31st March has been transferred to the Parent Council account. There was a small fee deducted by Just Giving and it has been noted in accounts. <p>Chromebooks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All chrome books have been delivered and issued. All S2—S5 pupils now have a device. More will be available for the S1's after summer. <p>Lunch Cards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Within the AGM minutes last year, it was asked if breakdowns of children's lunches were available. Yes – just contact the school office.• Previous Minutes approved - Ruth Adair seconded – Sarah Dingwall. |
| 4. <u>Treasury Report</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are currently in between treasurers. Lorraine's name is not on the accounts yet, but application submitted.• Balance on 31st March was £3319.18.• If you would like to see what the Parent Council has spent money on, please contact the Chair.• The account balance has increased since the end of March due to transfer of funds for different projects. <p>Approve accounts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved - Katherine Anderson Second – Sarah Dingwall <p>Auditing Accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accounts audited by Jamie Drummond (Former Pupil), and he is happy to audit the accounts again this year.• Approved – Katherine Anderson Seconded – Sarah Dingwall • Huge thank you to Tara from everyone for everything you have done as Treasurer, it is very much appreciated. |

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| <p>5. <u>PC Report</u></p> | <p>It has been a very strange year but despite all of this it has been a busy and successful year for the Parent Council.</p> <p>Aberdeen Parent Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have tried to attend most APCF meetings. The most recent meeting had discussions around face coverings in schools. The current guidelines will remain in place in August. Eleanor Sheppard will keep us informed if anything changes. Eleanor also gave a big thanks to all parents supporting their Head Teachers throughout the pandemic. • The CERG COVID recovery group is still meeting, and a subgroup has been developed for the school return in August. • The Parent Council are always looking for people to attend these meetings so please contact us if you would like to attend. <p>Uniform recycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two events have been held outside this year which have been very successful. Huge thanks to Lauren Lawson for communicating this to incoming S1 parents. Also, thanks to everyone who donated uniform also. The next sale will be Saturday 26th June at 10am. <p>Senior Prefects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to the senior prefects who created a thank you video for all staff. It was great to see such talented editing and creative skills. <p>Review panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have been part of successfully recruiting staff members this year and thanks to Mrs Rennie for letting us be on the panel. <p>Parent Council Elected Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catriona expressed her thanks to everyone who has been part of the Parent Council this year and for attending the weekly Thursday meetings. Feedback will be sought from members on how this will continue next session. <p>GDPR Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This has been worked on and sent to the Parent Council distribution list. This will now be done on an annual basis. <p>Behaviour in Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catriona, Mr McLaren, and staff at school have met with police and city wardens and have also now been in touch with Aberdeen City Council to plan a community litter pick. This will take place on Friday 20th August and pupils will be out in hi-vis vests after lunch to help with the ongoing issue of litter. <p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to Laura for updating the website and to Avril in the school office who has been helping share Parent Council news and events with staff and parents. |
| <p>5. <u>Fundraising update</u></p> | <p>It has been a strange year, but fundraising has gone well. There has been lots of initiatives throughout the year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total raised to date is almost £11,500 • £4.5k from just giving • Douglas Lumsden donated monthly ACC salary • Lots of anonymous donations • Parental Donation £560.00 • FP's £1000 • Christmas Tombola £640 • Body Donation - £28 • WKD Design - £15 |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emma Williams has been applying for grants; Shell £1350, Scot-mid £500, CJ Lang £1000, Inchgarth Community Centre £400 • Summer tombola is currently ongoing. Great generous prizes and hampers being made on themes. Moira in school canteen making a hamper. • To date we have sold £300.00 of Summer tombola tickets. <p>Recycling uniform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This initiative has never been about raising money, it is just nice to meet parents and help with uniform. However, it raised £150. <p>Easy Fundraising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have raised £436 through this already and it is so easy to do as we shop online. Please download the app if you have not already as the school gets a % of each transaction. <p>Rag Bag Collections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking to see if this could be a possibility in school as a parent is interested in setting this up. A permanent bin would be in the school grounds. This is to be discussed with Mr McLaren. <p>HOP Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst it is great we have raised money, we need to start using it. Plans are being looked at and although they take time, we are working hard to get the playground sorted. • There will be a professional company coming in to do clean-up it to make sure it is done properly and effectively. • Want to make sure we have central seating ideas – Men Shed have been out to quote. Going to get a few more quotes too and go with the best option. We have also received quotes for the grassy playground. • We are continuing to fundraise and look at getting money spent to make it an enjoyable playground to be in. • There are 4 grants we have applied for that we have not heard back from yet: Asda, Tesco, CO-OP and CNOOC. • Thanks to everyone who has donated. We cannot do this without you, and we really appreciate it. |
| <p>6. <u>School Report</u></p> | <p>Building Works - Progress is being made it is taking longer than hoped but we are finally seeing progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Front of school – some of the trees have gone. Now at stage where the barriers can be put in, hedge can get put up and the path can be created. • The works should be finished by the time school returns in August. • Toilets – this has been delayed due to the backlog with building services due to COVID. Mr McLaren is working closely with the council to get this progressed in the holidays. <p>Other School Information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The projected school roll for next year is 1029 • Increase of teachers will require us to rethink organisation of classrooms and this is being looked at by building services too. • There is ongoing work with building services to analyse our PE and catering needs in order to design a better solution for the school. What we have currently does not meet our needs but will require significant investment to improve. <p>Staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delighted to confirm Newly Qualified Teachers joining the team in Biology and Art. • Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful with RME, English and Technical but are now in the process of recruiting for these posts. • Also recruiting for a DHT - the advert closes tomorrow (Friday 8th June) • Due to increased uptake in Geography, we will need to consider recruiting a teacher in this area too. |

- Ashleigh Wilson will be working from home from August due to the current COVID restrictions before maternity leave commences. PT replacement will be recruited. We will be allowed to recruit a permanent appointment.

Feedback from Parent Council

- Mr McLaren requested feedback about the current break and lunch system at Harlaw. At present the juniors and seniors are split which means 2 x break and lunch sessions. School is looking to go back to same lunch however there would be 6 separate areas for bubbles for the year groups to continue.

Feedback Given:

- It is a long afternoon for younger ones having such an early lunch so one lunch would be better.

SQA

- Good news we are planning to use provisional grades to all pupils tomorrow (Friday 18th June). Pupils will receive envelopes in school and those who have already left will get them in the post by Monday.
- Teachers have worked very hard to ensure pupils are given the best provisional grade. This will give pupils a chance to ask questions before the end of term and appeals procedure is there if needed. This will be for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher results.

Parent Question – will pupils who did a subject at Grammar get results tomorrow?

A - Yes, they will. It will be in the envelope from Harlaw.

- Also, if course was undertaken at NESCOL they will contact students directly about provisional results over the next week.
- A huge amount of work has been undertaken by staff and Mr McLaren and the Parent Council pass on their thanks.

P7-S1 Transition

- Parent's Information Evening tonight for Transition. There has been an in-school experience this year and we are looking forward to welcoming them in August. Currently there are 180 on the S1 role but this may increase. Thank you to the school for the great transition.

School Timetabling

- Mrs Rennie has been working hard to put together the new timetable and it is great to say it is completed. The final checks are being done and the timetables will be issued during the first week of the holidays.
- We have been very ambitious this year to change the curriculum during COVID. It has been a huge amount of work, but we felt it was the right thing to do for our young people. Thank you to all parents for the patience. It has not been a typical year of timetable planning, but we want our young people to have the best.
- For the 2022/2023 session, we would prefer not to go with the Aug start, rather would propose the new timetable will run for 8 weeks before the summer holidays, from May, to give pupils maximum opportunity to start their new courses. This will be dependant on the situation with COVID-19 of course.

Parental Question – for those who normally receive an enhanced transition from year to year how will this happen this year if timetables are out during holidays?

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| | <p>A - For those who need it they will get a handwritten timetable next week. Please contact the school if you feel your child has been missed from the enhanced transition process.</p> <p>Reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to Laura and Angela for working so hard for the Parents Evening and Reporting. The process has been refined and school feel they are working well at it. The parent body have voiced that they would like to continue with online parent evenings. <p><i>Feedback from Parents on Parent Evenings online</i></p> <p>Qu - <i>Were notifications given on the day of teacher absence that they could not attend their appointment?</i></p> <p>A - Yes – Group Call was sent to advise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks for Groupcall being answered so quickly on the day of interviews it was really appreciated. <p>Thank you from Mr McLaren to everyone involved. It was another significant challenge, but worthwhile.</p> <p>Other School News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr McLaren commented that despite this challenging year for everyone we are making progress and achieving lots together. Grateful for support from Parent Council. We are at the start of journey, but we are moving in right direction. • Great donation from Shell – furniture and resources donation would have cost £30-40k if we were buying things in. • Thanks to PC and members this is a great collaboration to drive school forward. <p>Parental Question: Is form / registration returning?</p> <p>A - Yes, its returning in August. At 18 minutes, it is slightly longer due to COVID restrictions, but children will be in classroom for 12-13mins.</p> |
| <p>Former Pupils</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past President Lunch via zoom which was enjoyed by everyone. • Walking Group have been meeting in larger numbers. Hopeful for nice days. They meet 1st Tuesday of every month. • Monthly coffee at Michie’s has returned – last Saturday of every month. • Great to be back with face-2-face instead of Zoom meetings. • Latest FP magazine has been distributed. A copy has been sent to school and more are available if needed. • Hopeful to have an FP club website up and running but Sept/Oct with a link to the school website. • We need to update information on website – please send to Laura Murray to update • Posters for tombola and easy fundraising going up in Michie’s and they have been sent to FP Members. |
| <p>AOB</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Does the school think they will be offering Duke of Edinburgh?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If we can do, the full programme, then yes. - There is also a COVID friendly version if we cannot do full programme. • <i>Are you aware of the Dyslexia Champion?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, been made aware in the SFL channels. It is on schools the do list. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Mr Haggart, the brass instructor, is being redeployed to the Northfield area of Aberdeen after many years in the Harlaw area. A replacement has been made but no brass will be offered in Broomhill and Ferryhill. Parent just wanted to voice disappointment. Where do we go to do this?</i>- Please contact with Mr McLaren or through the Parent Council and this will be feedback.• <i>With the First Minister announcement on Tuesday, if there are any significant changes over summer when will the school be in touch with families?</i>- School got a briefing paper this week to state that everything that is in place now will still be in place when we come back. HT update will be out next week with more information. |
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Next meeting will be 02/09/21.

Enjoy your holidays and see you next term.