

Parent Council Meeting
Wednesday 2nd November 2016
Held in the PHS Staffroom

Present: Thirza Pupillo, Frank Lynch, Louise McGregor, Katherine Farmer, Linda McMurchie, Jackie Halawi, Susan Wightman, Caroline Clos, Derek Goodwin, Mary Shrimpton, Karen Boyce, Lorraine Tomb, Steve Elliot, Sylvia Wallace

Apologies: John Harper, Graeme Milne, Angela Dunn, Philippe Lacoux, Jenny Ballantyne, Iain Collin, Anne McElnea, Stephen Kelly-Barton, Councillor Bob Band, Gillian McGuire, Jeannine McVean, Louise Lockhart, Steve Duncan

In Attendance: Robin Illsley

Minute of meeting of 15 September

The Minutes of the meeting were approved.

Update on actions from Previous copy of minutes

Thirza provided an update:

Heating in new gym hall is controlled by thermostat which is in the roof space – the system takes time to learn and adjust according to usage. It is anticipated that over time the temperature control should become better

Lighting – Thirza carried out a check on this matter and couldn't see any issues around the Games Hall. We will clarify at next meeting. **Action: Thirza Pupillo**

Fence issue: Thirza updated the group that for a number of reasons it is likely that a gate will be put into the fence to allow pupils returning from various shops at lunchtime and for pupils who may now park in the community centre car park to gain easier access to School grounds.

Guest Speaker – Robin Illsley

Having demitted as Depute Head, Robin is now working 2-days per week focusing on Wider Achievement opportunities in the school. Robin informed the group that there are an enormous variety of opportunities for pupils to be involved in but upon reviewing pupil involvement, he has found a large number of pupils are not getting involved due to either lack of financial support, peer pressure or lack of confidence.

Robin is trying to create more opportunities for pupils by tapping into the wider community to target individuals who are in a position to assist the school. A number of examples of current activity were discussed:

1. We currently have a Boat Building project taking place – costing the school nothing – there are 4-5 pupils involved. The pupils are building the boat from scratch with the help of 2 professional builders from Glasgow.
2. Mock interviews – The Rotary Club are trying involved with this giving the opportunity to about 40 young people ages 16 and over to take part in formal interview situations. These interviews are only for pupils who are likely to be leaving school and not going into further education.
3. We have recruited 2 youth workers working with the school and we also have an apprentice outdoor assistant – Steven Stewart (ex-pupil).
4. Lisa Sneddon has set up a rowing training session at Strathclyde Rowing Centre, where we are going to be given access to use their water tanks.

The group expressed their support for Robin and were impressed by the level of ambition being applied to this initiative.

Facilities Update

Thirza met with Stephen Crawford from PKC property services yesterday. Thirza informed the group that a budget of £7.2 million has been allocated over next 7 years to keep the school building maintained and in working order.

It was explained that the main focus initially will be on upgrading the Electrical and heating systems. A dedicated project manager to oversee and progress the work covered by this budget will be appointed by January 2017.

Thirza has asked Department Heads to collate issues related to the rooms in their departments i.e. ill-fitting windows, flooring etc. This info will be compiled together and provide an overview of the work that needs to be carried out in the school. It is anticipated that Stephen Crawford will attend the next parent council meeting on 29th November to give an update himself.

Staffing

The following vacancies were noted – Home Economics teacher, PT Technology, PT Guidance, maternity cover vacancy in English.

A Support for Learning assistant will commence employment soon.

A new business manager has been appointed – Paul Anderson

Attainment

Thirza updated the group:

1. The finalised standards & qualities report is now live on PKC website.
2. The exam results have been discussed with all PT's and agreement has been reached with each one on what to focus on next year.
3. In-service day's this month are on Thursday 17 & Friday 18th November and this matter will be covered during these days.
4. There is a curricular network meeting on Thursday, giving staff to work with colleagues from across the authority to share good practice and share thoughts on how to improve attainment.

Mobile Devices policy

Given the growth of use of mobile devices, it was thought worth re-iterating the school's policy on their use. The policy has been reviewed and will be shared with staff to get their views before being issued to all pupils. Thirza sought feedback from PC members by 11 November. **Action: PC members**

School Teaching Timetable

In order to maximise the teacher contact time, allocation of time to subjects and to support positive behaviour at lunchtimes, a number of different models of timetable structure are being considered. PC members voiced their support for this review. An update will be provided in due course.

AOB

The group discussed the need to have a communications strategy that informed parents and carers with enough information that allowed them to have a good understanding of what is going on at the school.

It was agreed that the new School App should be promoted to parents/careers and to resolve a number of issues with accessing data via the app. The use of "files" was thought to be off-putting for example.

It was agreed that this would be an issue for discussion at the next meeting and we would seek Lisa Sorbie's input on this matter at a future meeting. **Action: PHS PC members**

The meeting ended.

Dates of next meetings:

Date	Time
Tuesday 29 th November 2016	7pm
Thursday 26 th January 2017	7pm
Wednesday 8 th March 2017	7pm
Wednesday 3 rd May 2017	7pm
Wednesday 7 th June 2017	7pm