

Minute of Perth High School Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 29th November 2016

Present: Caroline Clos, Steve Kelly-Barton, Karen Boyce, Susan Brown Thirza Pupillo, Frank Lynch, John Harper, Louise McGregor, Linda McMurchie, Mary Shrimpton and Anne McElnea.

Apologies: Jenny Ballantyne, Bob Band, Iain Colin, Steven Duncan, Steve Elliott, Katherine Farmer, Derek Goodwin, Jackie Halawi, Philippe Lacoux, Louise Lockhart, Gillian McGuire, Jeannine McVean, Graeme Milne, Lorraine Tomb, Sylvia Wallace and Susan Wightman

In Attendance: Ian Inglis, PKC (Property)

1. Minute of Meeting of 2 November 2016

The Minute of the meeting of 2 November was approved by the group

2. Guest Speaker – Ian Inglis, Service Manager, PKC

Ian gave an overview the anticipated current work programme. The main points discussed were:

- There is a £7.2M budget set aside for an 8-10yr programme of work that will include the following upgrades to various aspects of the building:

Mechanical	}	phase over each financial year	£800,000 - £1m
Electrical infrastructure			
Partial Heating improvements			
Asbestos removal			
Remedial work to structure of building			
Games Hall			
Home Economics classes			
Fire assessment work			

- Ian informed the group that any plans for a new School on the current site would be 5-years in the making
- Orders are currently going out to companies for the remedial work to be carried out in the current financial year
- A dedicated project manager is being recruited and is expected to be in place by Feb/Mar 2017. Existing project management staff have the capacity to deal with the work programme activities until the new project manager is appointed
- Ian was informed that the group would like to see a mix of work that is a combination of visible improvements for pupils such as painting, classroom upgradings as well as the essential “behind the scenes” improvements to the electrical systems etc.
- The group thanked Ian for his contribution to the meeting.

3. Matters arising from last meeting

- Lighting around new Sports Hall – it was agreed that this action is no longer live.
- Mobile phone policy – the policy had been discussed with staff and some minor amendments had been made. It will next go to a pupil council focus group for discussion and then go online and a groupcall will be sent to all parents to notify them of this.
- Communications Plan– L Sorbie and C Murray to be invited to attend a future meeting to further the communication plan

4. Updates from Head Teacher

Mr Murray has presented 3 new timetable models that attempt to improve the efficiency of the timetable structure for pupils, staff and parents. Mr Murray is seeking 3-4 parents to meet with him to consider the parental/carer views of the new models. **Action: LM to send out email of invitation to PC members**

Developing Young Workforce – Thirza provided an explanatory note to PC members to highlight expectations/entitlements of the initiative

Business Ambassadors – My Murray is currently engaging with local businesses with staff who have a connection to the School in order to identify and create work experience opportunities for pupils. Mr Murray to be invited to a future meeting of the PC to talk about this initiative in more detail

Staffing

- Home Economics – V Mason has been appointed and will start in Easter
- PT Guidance – G Shenton (Huntingtower) will start in January
- Acting PT Guidance – M Carcary (Balmanno)
- PT Art interviews taking place on Monday
- Re-advertising the PT Technology post after Christmas holidays

5. Perth High School Facilities Update

Thirza is working with Ian Inglis and others at PKC to ensure that work is carried out to the School that has an immediate impact on student life such as repainting various areas of the school.

6. Communication

School App is a daily communication source

- Promote usage (send a groupcall about the app and include where exactly to access the pupil bulletins. Send out a reminder after 1 month and then review)
Action: Thirza Pupillo
- How many parents/guardians have the app (**Action: Thirza Pupillo** – if the app has Google Analytics associated with it, we can find out how many people are using it)
- Issue with making it user friendly so there is a link which can take you straight to the bulletin page
- Create a mini card with info about the app (leave out on parents' evenings etc).
Action: Thirza Pupillo

7. AOCB

There was a discussion around the process currently in place for communicating decisions around winter events that impact upon the School. Thirza provided an explanation of the processes around decisions made regarding the recent breakdown of the school heating system.

The PC agreed that the process in place was sound and that decisions around closing the school necessitate careful consideration and consultation with PKC to ensure transport etc. was in place for pupils. The PC expressed the view that the Head Teacher should continue to communicate on a timely basis after taking the necessary advice, in order to ensure that accurate information is provided on decisions reached. This was thought preferential to a series of communications providing a running commentary on events as they unfold.

The Chair wished all present a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

The meeting concluded.

Next Meeting – Thursday 26th January 2017 at 7pm