

Minute of Perth High School Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 1 November 2017

Present: Susan Brown (CP), Iain Collin, Penny Cox, Steven Duncan, Steve Elliott, Katherine Farmer, Anne McElnea, Louise McGregor, Linda McMurchie, Thirza Pupillo (HT), Lorraine Russell, Jodie Saunders, Susan Wightman, Paul Cunningham (DHT), Charlene MacDonald

Apologies: Karen Boyce, Caroline Clos, Jackie Halawi, Stephen Kelly-Barton, Gillian McGuire, Chris Meek, Michael Swan

In Attendance: Paul Cunningham (DHT), Natasha Sturrock (Teacher) and 2 senior students.

Guest Speakers: Natasha and 2 senior students talked about a pupil-driven project called 'Challenge to Change' that both Perth High School and Perth Grammar School will be leading involving S3-S6 pupils. The plan is to hold a conference in Perth Concert Hall aiming to speak about unspoken truths in teen society such as LGBT, mental health, body image, female equality and disabilities. It will cost approx. £6,000 to rent out the entire hall. The seniors are planning on having guest speakers including some celebrities, one confirmed speaker being Mr John Swinney. They will need funding for this project to go ahead. They have applied to the Aviva Community Fund and need as many votes as possible to make it to the final stage. The link to this page will be circulated to parents/staff via email or Groupcall in the upcoming days.

1. Staffing Updates

Thirza advised of the following:

The Music post has been re-advertised and we are hopeful of a successful candidate.

English have a vacancy and we have also appointed Mark McConnell as Joanna Sutherland has left. The English classes which need cover are being covered by an English supply teacher at the moment.

Vivienne Hyndman (History teacher) has now left and Stuart Clark has taken up the post of Acting PT of History. Margo Feron (previous Depute) has now taken back the post of PT Social Subjects.

Modern Languages post has been re-advertised and interviews will happen in the upcoming days.

A PE post has been advertised for extra capacity

2 PT's of Equity have been appointed (Natasha Sturrock and Susannah Coventry) which is to focus on attainment and SIMD 1/2. They will look into the PHS Experience and find opportunities for pupils to get the best out of their time at school and to improve Health & Wellbeing, Numeracy and Literacy.

2. Standards & Qualities Report

Thirza distributed paper copies of the Standards & Qualities report and wishes for feedback on this by the end of the week.

3. Reporting

S1 Open Evening – Parents spoken to really liked the format and enjoyed seeing the school and the areas where the pupils work. It was a nice way for pupils, parents and staff to interact. Parents thought the use of this time was more valuable than having 5-10 minutes with each subject teacher. Parents were impressed by the positive relationships they saw between pupils and teachers.

4. Communication

The issues with the hyperlinks not working in the school app have been emailed to the Library staff. After a few days of the app not working this has now been rectified.

The Art & Design department have launched some work onto the Twitter site.

5. Updates

The school had again been in the press and Thirza reiterated that we do take necessary action when required and when they are aware of incidents there will always be consequences whether it be exclusion, parental meetings, police/fire presence or the youth justice system etc. If any parent/guardian has any concerns whatsoever they are to speak with the Headteacher, Year Head or Guidance teacher.

The CCTV system is due to be updated as our current system can be quite faulty. The CCTV should be more accessible meaning that it can be accessed from any laptop/computer at any point during the day whereas currently the screens are all in one room and worked by one person. The new cameras will be of better quality and we are hoping to have cameras in the stairwells.

The community police will be in attendance at the next Parent Council meeting.

Louise to go on maternity leave in January therefore Linda McMurchie will take over the minute taking and agendas.

6. Parent Council Chair Meeting

Susan Brown (Chairperson) attended a PC meeting and relayed back to us what was discussed.

In attendance there were Sheena Devlin (Executive Director of ECS), Rodger Hill (Head of Education – Secondary & Inclusion), Sharon Johnston (Head of Education – Early Years and Primary), Catriona Laing (GIRFEC Development Officer), Karen Robertson (Service Manager) and Gail Hally (Education Support Officer).

Due to the number of parents now no longer on Parent Councils due to their child leaving school they are looking for current members to join the following:

- Attendance Sub Committee
- Review Sub Committee
- Statutory Appeal Sub Committee

7. Guest Speaker: Paul Cunningham (DHT)

Paul mentioned that in his experience schools go through spates of being in the press and that every school has moments like that, both positive and negative. The issues are no different than issues at other schools. He has had very good first impressions and is enjoying his time here already.

One of the members said that her son is taking part in a college link course as an apprentice and he is now doing brilliantly going from studying National 5s to studying all Highers and the link with the college is very beneficial and he really enjoys it.

7. AOCB

Issues regarding transport were discussed as due to the number of pupils who live outside of Perth may be more reluctant to not participate in after school clubs due to transport home which can be costly for parents. It was discussed of possibly contacting someone within the Council regarding this issue and maybe having a pass for using on the bus which is open until 6pm for pupils to get home safely. It was an idea to check with the Head of PE the number of pupils who participate and what clubs run after school. The parent body will explore this option; draft a letter and have other parent council members check this.

Bertha Park is due to open in 2019 with it starting with just S1's and building up over a 6 year period to fill up the school. The Headteacher will be appointed the April before with an estimated 1100 roll analysis.

School lunches were discussed as some meals if pre-ordered are cold by the time the pupils pick them up. The ticket system has been trialled and amended to make it better. The kitchen staff don't have time to put the lunches in order so have trialled coloured tickets and it seemed to work a bit faster. Some points brought up were:

- Pupils jump the queue and prefects don't take action on this
- A lot of pupils will head out to the shop if they wait a long time
- The queue for the junior dining hall is split where some pupils queue up outside to ease the congestion inside the hall.
- It was suggested that additional questions may be worth adding to the S1 Parental Survey about the pupils experience of the school so far.

The meeting concluded.

Next Meeting – Wednesday 24 January 2018