

Banff Academy Parent Council

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 31st August 2017 In Conference Room, Banff Academy

Present: John Walker (JW), Odette Strain (OS), Alan Horberry (AH), Claire Ellis (CE), Lorraine Edwards (LE), Wendy Steven (WS), Carole Polovinkine (CP), Shona Taylor (ST), Debbie Mackie (DM), Elaine McDermott (EM), Malcolm Howard (MH), Cameron Ewen (CEw)

Item	Subject	Action
1.	Welcome and Introductions	
	JW welcomed everyone and introductions were made.	
2.	Apologies	
	Apologies were received from Hamish McLeay and Cllr Roy.	
3.	Previous Minutes, Matters Arising	
	<p>Previous minutes discussed and agreed.</p> <p>Matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Facility Centre – defibrillator onsite? – JW to speak to Cllr Cox 	JW
4.	Correspondence	
	<p>JW received email from Jamie Milne with information about upcoming events and asked for the parent council to support and spread the word.</p> <p><u>Sponsored Walk</u> Sponsored walk taking place on 12th September where the total length walked round the track will be equivalent to walking from Banff Academy to Banff, Canada. Looking for volunteers to help at the event – any parents willing to help out to put their name into the school office. Letters and sponsor forms will be distributed.</p> <p><u>Head Boy/Girl Interviews</u> Interviews will be taking place week commencing 11th September. Hoping for an interview panel to consist of the Head Teacher, a councillor, and a representative from the Parent Council – JW will go along and represent the parent council.</p> <p>Money raised at the above fundraiser will go towards what the parent council decide. It was unanimously decided that after comments from pupils, money should start being raised to refurbish the current social centre with the aim to get new flooring, new seating and tables, TV's etc and make it a better place for the pupils to spend time in. We would be looking at least 18 months before any work would start but this gives plenty time for fundraising. It was also suggested by MH to get a rough project price for this so there is a rough target to be raised.</p>	<p>JW</p> <p>AH</p>

5.	Communication with Parent Forum	
	<p>JW asked everyone's opinion about the parent council and how visible it was to others. Meetings are already advertised on the website – perhaps more info to go onto the School Facebook page?</p> <p>CP suggested putting a board in the new sports centre with information about the parent council for others to see.</p> <p>JW suggested creating a new Parent, Teachers Association group which would be a sub group and focus more on fundraising efforts and only report to the parent council with what is going on. Hopefully this would encourage more parents to be involved supporting fundraisers but not feel obliged to join the parent council. A note will be added to the sponsorship forms going out next week about this and any parents who would be interested in this should give their names to Lynette – JW to confirm this with Lynette and once names are in a meeting will be organised to get going with fundraising ideas. Also use the school Facebook page to spread word about it.</p> <p>LE asked AH about prefects. AH has introduced this to the school. Pupils are set tasks to do to earn this such as help with lunch time rotas, meeting and greeting parents at parents evenings, and buddy for younger pupils. If these tasks are not fulfilled the pupils can lose their prefect.</p> <p>LE is helping to arrange a reunion for next year and has said that she would like to donate any leftover funds raised to the School.</p> <p>WS asked AH how head teacher surgeries were going – AH confirmed these were still proving successful.</p> <p>The parent council congratulated AH on this year's exam results.</p> <p>WS updated the group about the sub group that was created for welcoming new staff to the area and local social activities and organisations. The group are currently brainstorming ideas for events for staff and hope to have new ideas in the next couple of weeks.</p>	JW
6.	Matters of interest in school from Head Teacher	
	<p><u>Uniforms</u> AH thanked all parents for support with regards to the new uniforms.</p> <p><u>Exam Results</u> AH is delighted with exam results this year. Banff Academy is the most improved school in Aberdeenshire since last year's results and has the potential to be one of the best schools. The percentage of pupils who passed 3 or more higher this year increased from 22% last year to 37% this year. There has also been an 80% reduction in exclusions.</p>	

	<p><u>Staffing</u> There are currently 3 vacancies within the school for Maths, Technology and a Deputy Head and there are 9 new members of staff, 6 being probationers.</p> <p><u>Business Breakfast</u> There is to be a business breakfast held on Wednesday 13th September from 7.30am where there will be presentations from local businesses as well as the school. There will also be refreshments available.</p> <p><u>Update on Technology Dept</u> Parents asked AH for an update about the technology department workshops after the last meeting and tour of the department and were extremely disappointed to hear that nothing has been done since the last meeting. AH has been told by property that there are other schools in need of work done first. AH has also said that if the flooring is not replaced by the Christmas holidays he will need to remove technology as an option for pupils to select due to the risk of harm to staff and pupils. The parent council supported his decision. The parent council will be writing a letter to the director of education to voice their concern and disappointment that there has been no action since June and requesting a meeting and a visit. JW will do the letter and send to Maria Walker. JW will also contact the local councillors about this.</p> <p><u>Car Park</u> There has been no further action on the above.</p>	JW
7.	Closure of Meeting and Date of Next Meeting	
	<p>JW closed the meeting at 20.35. AGM to be held on Thursday 28th September 2017 in the Lecture Area.</p>	