

Forres Academy Parent Council minutes. Monday 6th of November 2017.

Apologies from Mhairi Donald, treasurer and David Nelmes who is standing down.

Present: Margaret Price; Leslie Coutts; Diane Mcpartlin; Carol Stuart; Caroline Luxon-Read; Anne Rossiter; Elizabeth Watson.

- 1) The minutes from the last meeting on Monday the 4th of September were approved.
- 2) Elizabeth reviewed the membership of the parent council. 15 members were counted.
- 3) It was confirmed that the 33 week period is going ahead in the 2018/19 session.
- 4) There was no correspondence to report on.
- 5) Elizabeth gave feedback from the Moray Parent Forum meeting held on 27 September. The meeting was very poorly attended with Elizabeth being the only Secondary School Chair present and only two primary schools represented. Adam McLeod the quality improvement officer presented the Moray National Improvement Framework Plan. One area of focus for school improvement is parental engagement.

The next meeting is on Wednesday the 22nd of November in Elgin Academy. Elizabeth invited us to email her if we're interested in going.

- 5) It was discussed that as a member of the Scottish parents teachers council any school can hold an information session. Elizabeth suggested looking into hosting the 'How to Improve Your School' session, with the focus being improving schools through parental engagement. I.e. Joining the parent council, and discussing how the parent council can engage with the local community. Parent Councils from other schools would be invited to the session. The SPTC are responsible for advertising.

6) Elizabeth gave Caroline information on how to be a parent council secretary.

7) Anne Rossiter said Mhairi, treasurer had nothing to report. The parent council account has a balance of £3157 pounds.

Anne raised, and it was discussed to look at Hags for outdoor stuff, benches, seats with canopies things like that for the children to sit on something that we can spend the parent council money on that would improve the school. Hags guarantee is 15-25 years on their equipment.

Carol stated that the council would not pay any bills for upkeep/repair on outdoor things that we buy. We would need to have funds for maintenance in PC account. Carol advised that we speak to the council before we go ahead to check the safety and maintenance issues.

9) Anne talked about the tennis court. Sandra McCulloch is waiting for the council to get back to her re: how much replacement net would cost.

10) There was a discussion around the area of land around and near the river at the back of school, there was a skate park there previously. Carol pointed out that the community created it. It wasn't kept to a good standard and it created other challenges for the school so it was cleared. Forres 20 vision are looking at developing another area for a skate park in Forres.

Anne talked about Sport Hub. She is a part of that group, and is hoping to get advice about how to move forward with an outdoor gym, like in Nairn maybe where the sandpit and shot put areas are.

11) The Head teachers report was distributed. There was some discussion around the S3 tests in English and Maths and some concern expressed about these tests. All schools are going to be doing them.

12) Elizabeth talked about the parent council link on the Forres Academy website she is open for feedback and suggestions for improvement.

13) Anne is still involved in the pupil forum. Anne asked if anyone could help build a shed at Forres tennis courts.

Diana Mcpartlin raised the 33 week period issue, with concerns over the information presented during the consultation period. She also queried the late lunch hour. There are 5 periods before lunch.

14) Anne suggested that the food issue with 33 week period is talked about by parent council.

Action Points:

The next Moray Parent Forum meeting is on Wed 17 Jan at Elgin Academy at 6.30 pm. The focus of the meeting will be the Education Bill and an inspection update. Please let Elizabeth know if you have any interest in attending.

Form a group to progress the outdoor equipment and area.

Follow up on prices for the tennis net.

Next meeting is on 22nd Jan at 6.30pm.