

FORRES ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

C/O Forres Academy Burdsyard Road Forres IV36 1FG



Email: forresacademypc@outlook.com

FORRES ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 26th March 2018 at 6.30pm

Room B1 at Forres Academy

1.	Welcome from Chair	Actions
2.	Present Elizabeth Watson (Chair) (EW), Mhairi Donald (Treasurer) (MD), Diana McPartlin (DM) (Secretary), Siobhan Evans (SE), Kathleen Robertson (KR), Cath Perry (CP), Ann Rossiter (Staff Representative) (AR), Claire Feaver (Councillor) (CF)	
3.	Apologies Lesley Coutts	
4.	Minutes of previous meeting Approved Caroline Luxon-Read has resigned as secretary and DM has taken up the position.	
5.	Matters arising from previous minutes Swimming club is still struggling to maintain morning swim sessions. Pool hire costs are increasing to £60 per session and there are 32 sessions per year. Some funding may be available from the following sources: Money for Moray, Bags for Cash, Berry Burn Community Fund, local business sponsorship. A sponsored swim is usually arranged at the start of the school year. The possibility of putting funding from a school 'Dress Down Day' was discussed. AR said that this would have to be agreed with the Pupil Forum. EW suggested getting parents of swimmers more involved in taking initiative to raise funds. CP agreed to look into these issues.	СР
6.	Correspondence None	
7.	Moray Parent Forum EW reported that at the last meeting there was supposed to be a tour of Elgin High School and a speaker on Developing the Young Workforce, however there was a lack of interest so the event was cancelled. EW suggested that she will set up a Parent Council clinic to help parents from other schools run Parent Councils. The clinic would advise on structure and help them anticipate issues which may arise. EW will put this proposal to Vivienne Cross, Head of Schools and Curriculum Development.	EW
8.	Treasurer's Report Balance of Account is £3,173. End of year is 31 March. Ritsons	

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	accountants will check the accounts.	
9.	HTIYS On Thursday 1 st February, Forres Academy hosted a workshop run by Connect (previously the Scottish Parent Teacher Council) "Helping to Improve Your School". Parents and teachers from Forres Academy, and a number of local primary schools attended. EW, MP, DM and AR attended.	
	DM reported that there was a presentation and group discussion. The discussion was based on an exercise called "Starting Points" which was a detailed list of school, family and community practices that parents might be concerned with. The exercise helped stimulate conversation about what the Parent Council was for. The Forres Academy group didn't get through all the points within the allotted time, and agreed that it would be useful for the Parent Council to complete the exercise at some point.	
10.	Communications Subcommittee DM suggested setting up a communications subcommittee to look at ways of improving communication between school and parents, and amongst parents. The possibility of starting a Parent Forum Facebook page was discussed. EW, KR, SE, DM will join the subcommittee with DM to chair.	DM
	EW raised the point that setting up sub-committees can be a useful way of engaging more parents in the PC activities. Parents can join sub-committees which represent areas of particular interest, but where meeting times may be more convenient. Not all parents are looking to be on a committee but may be willing to join a sub-committee.	
11.	Use of Funds No progress on use of funds for outdoor area.	
	AR asked if PC funds could be used for school colours to recognise achievement in and service to the school. The system would include the award of half colours and a colours tie. It was agreed that funds could be allocated to this.	AR
	Use of funds for swimming club was discussed. - PC discussed whether it was appropriate for funds to be used to support a club which doesn't benefit the whole school. It was agreed that even though not all students participate in the swimming club, it is free and open to the whole school if they want to use it, so it was agreed that it was acceptable to use funds for this.	
	- The question of whether we needed to set a minimum number of participants to justify funding was discussed, but we agreed it wasn't necessary	AR



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	- PC agreed to fund pool hire costs for the school swimming club from start of term in April to the end of this school year. AR to inform Grant McPherson of this decision and liaise with MD re payment. This should amount to around £500 (8 to 9 sessions at £60 per session).	
12.	Appointment of new Depute Head and Headteacher EW and DM have been participating in the selection process for these posts. We have been asked to put forward possible interview questions for the candidates and some suggestions were made. Suggestions to be sent to EW who will forward them to Carol Stuart.	EW
13.	Head Teacher's Report Report on the website	
14.	Extra Curricular Report Report on the website AR is organising the Transition Day for new S1s on 16 th June and letters have already gone out to P7 parents. Around 20 new parents have indicated an interest in meeting the Parent Council. Parent Council will help at the event by serving refreshments. Parent workshops will be held on Internet Safety and on Drug and Alcohol Awareness, and there will be representation from the health team. AR	AR
15.	will keep the Parent Council updated. AOCB Constitution subcommittee - EW suggested forming a subcommittee to consider a revision of the constitution. There was general support for this and we agreed it is to be taken forward. Duke of Edinburgh Awards - CF noted that DoE can incur costs for parents and asked what	PC
16.	support the school provides for those unable to meet the costs. AR informed us that the school can provide kit free of charge. Date of next meeting Monday 28 th May at 6.30pm in B1	