



FORRES ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

c/o Forres Academy

Burdsyard Road

Forres

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FORRES ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 2 September 2019 at 6.30pm

Room B1 at Forres Academy

1.	Welcome from Chair	Actions
2.	<p>Present Elizabeth Watson (Chair) (EW), Mhairi Donald (Treasurer) (MD), Lesley Coutts (LC), Norma Matheson (NM), Jill McGhee (JM), Alison Reilly (AR), Jan Sinclair (Head Teacher) (JS), Anne Rossiter (Staff Representative) (ARo), Claire Feaver (Councillor) (CF), Diana McPartlin (Secretary) (DM) - minute taker.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of previous meeting Approved.</p>	
4.	<p>Correspondence None.</p>	
5.	<p>Treasurer’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenses: £600 for App for Parents. • Receipts: £449.70 from Moray Council. • Balance: £2,209.01. <p>MD noted that annual accounts had been approved and lodged with Moray Council.</p>	
6.	<p>AGM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date for AGM has been set for 23 Sept, 6.30pm, Rm B1. • DM will put notice on website. JM will put on website. • Chair and secretary gave notice that they will resign at AGM. • JS noted that there are lots of projects coming up including Cost of the School Day and Empowering schools initiative, and a strong, active parent council is a great asset to a school. 	DM, JM
7.	<p>Communications sub-group</p> <p>Facebook - DM noted that Facebook page was running well and parents are using it to share information about the school.</p> <p>Website - JM will put minutes on website. We discussed other ideas for more content, such as a short and more readable summary of minutes.</p>	
8.	<p>Fundraising sub-group</p> <p>50th Anniversary Ceilidh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AR has booked the Town Hall provisionally for Friday 8th and Saturday 9th November. • The cost for the Town Hall is £21.75 per hour and £9 for the 	



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	<p>kitchen. Cost for school hall would be £30 per hour, plus licensing costs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options for entertainment, food, drink and pricing were discussed and the sub-group have arranged a meeting to coordinate activities. 	AR, NM, DM, LC, HH
9.	<p>Moray Parent Forum Next meeting is Wed 25 Sept, Elgin Academy 6.30 - 7.30 pm.</p> <p>CF noted that the parent forum is not well attended and that this has been discussed in Moray Council meetings. She stressed that PCs aren't just for fundraising, there should be more engagement with school issues, in line with the empowerment agenda. MC are considering holding the parent forum in other locations - Forres, Buckie etc.</p> <p>Lack of participation was discussed and it was suggested that topics aren't engaging, and that secondary schools always struggle to get PC members, and there are 54 primary schools in Moray and only 8 secondary schools.</p>	
10.	<p>Head Teacher's Report Disruption from maintenance work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JS noted that summer maintenance works carried out in the school were not completed by beginning of term and have caused disruption. This was all essential work on gas, electricity and drains. This meant that three of the science rooms couldn't be used for the first two weeks of term. JS has raised this concern with the council. The school will always have work going on during summer and this will continue for the next seven years. We agreed to write a letter expressing our concern about work not completed on time. We need assurances that lessons will not be disrupted and teachers have necessary access to classrooms. <p>App for Parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has been rolled out and well received. <p>Parental Survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The survey revealed that parents want more updates on their children's progress, so progress reports will now be sent twice a year. 	DM
11.	<p>Extra Curricular Report ARo presented Extra Curricular Report. All sports and interest clubs are up and running.</p>	
12.	<p>Cost of the School Day DM asked if the school could discuss the Cost of the School Day</p>	



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	<p>toolkit for parent councils, which has been produced by the Child Poverty in Action Group. JS said that the school was already working on this and research was being done on families who may be struggling. School is looking into ways to engage with hard-to-engage parents, school jumpers are now plain black with no logo to reduce cost. All S1s are given a tie, and ties only cost £5. ARo said that parent can donate old uniforms at the end of term. JM asked if we can create a store of uniforms. JS said that Moray Schoolbank coordinates that. Links to websites for free school meals, uniform grants and moray school bank can be put on website.</p>	
13.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CF asked if a consultation with parents about the 33 hour week would take place and JS confirmed that it would.• CF noted that an estates review has been carried out on schools and Forres was rated highly for the size of classrooms.	
14.	<p>Date of next meeting Monday 4 November at 6.30pm in B1</p>	