

Minutes

Culloden Academy Parent Council Meeting

Monday 12th January 2015

Culloden Academy Staffroom at 7.00pm

Present:

Dr Vance – Head Teacher
Mary MacFarlane – CAPC Chairperson
Jillian Walker –CAPC Vice Chairperson
Jill Robertson – Parent Member
Kim MacDonald – Parent Member
Mandy Woods – Parent Member
Helen MacDonald – Parent Member
Liz Green – Parent Member
Robert Johnstone – Guest Speaker

Apologies

Carol Piper
Mairi Stewart
Jane Gill
Karen Philip
Kate Stephen

Welcome

Mary Macfarlane welcomed everyone to the meeting. Special thanks were conveyed to Robert Johnstone – Acting Depute – who had come along to inform the parents about tracking, monitoring and reporting processes that are currently happening at the Academy.

Tracking, Monitoring and Reporting

Robert Johnstone delivered a presentation giving the parents an overview of the tracking, monitoring and reporting processes that are happening at the Academy. Robert informed the Parent Council how the data was collected and how this was then used to identify the progress of individual pupils. Tracking and monitoring pupils in this way helps the school to implement measures to encourage all pupils to meet their full academic potential. There was some discussion regarding the provision of reports for parents and whether it would be more effective to send home regular, but less detailed progress reports or to keep the current report system in place where parents receive just one detailed report at the end of the school year.

Chairperson Report

Mary informed parents that due to having no Wi-Fi facility at her home address contacting and receiving messages had been challenging in recent weeks. However, she is hoping to have this resolved soon and will be fully contactable.

Mary advised the Parent Council that she is to forward onto them a survey from Highland Council. As only one survey can be returned to Highland Council on behalf of the Parent Council, Mary will evaluate all surveys that are returned to her and will send in a group response.

Mary informed the Parent Council about a fundraising idea provided by Jane Gill – the recycling of ink cartridges. Mary will explore this idea further and advise the school if this will be a worthwhile way to generate an income for the school.

Head Teacher Report

Dr Vance advised the Parent Council that the school was in the process of implementing a range of Information Evenings for parents. It is planned that these will be held a week before Parents Evenings and will be used to inform parents on a range of issues that affect the year group their child is currently in.

Dr Vance updated the parents on the budget challenges that are being experienced at all schools. Dr Vance has now received the school budget for 2014 and 2015. As a result of this, concerns about the budget cuts have been partially ameliorated. It is now hoped that all courses that have enough pupil uptake will now be able to be offered in the next academic year.

Dr Vance informed the parents that it is planned to stage the musical Hairspray in the summer term. Feedback for the new format that was implemented at the Christmas concert had been very positive. The concert that is timetabled for the spring will also go ahead as planned.

Fujitsu are continuing their refresh of the IT system throughout the school. There are plans to introduce a range of laptops and tablets which will help to alleviate the reduction of stand-alone computers. Wi-fi is also to be installed in to the school and this will enable students to use their own devices to access educational material.

Burns Night Update

Jillian Walker informed the Parent Council that the Burns Night subcommittee had worked hard to put plans in to place to organise the Burns Evening. However, as a consequence of a variety of factors, ticket sales have been very low.

It was decided that the Parent Council would take a vote on whether the Burns Night should go ahead. In view of low ticket sale uptake, it was voted to cancel the Burns Supper on this occasion. However, there was positive discussion on a range of fund raising initiatives that could be introduced to help the Parent Council raise funds for the school and it is hoped that these ideas will be developed in future meetings.

Accounts Report

In Mairi's absence, Jan delivered the following information regarding the Parent Council account: A Highland Council Bank Giro Credit for £1,057.27 was paid in on 17/11/14. The account balance now stands at £ 2,742.77.

Meeting Ended 8.15pm
NEXT MEETING – 29th April 2015