

Culloden Academy Parent Council Minutes

30th January 2017

Staff room

7pm

Agenda Item		Action
1 Welcome and apologies	<p>Present: Liz Green, Jenny Urquhart, Martyn Crawshaw, Lynda Thomson, Gillian Spalding, Helen Macdonald, Caroline Campbell, Jill Robertson, John McKillop,</p> <p>Apologies: Dr Vance, Carol Piper, Mary Macfarlane, Evelyn Gray, Lisa Thomson, Karen Dowling, Jane Gill, Ellen Crawford</p> <p>Members present representative of all year groups.</p>	
2 Previous minutes and matters arising	<p>Minutes from November agreed by Caroline and Jill.</p> <p>Update on school trip volunteers - school collating volunteers, please pass on your name if you can help. STEM ambassadors have also come forward to help with trips, clubs etc.</p> <p>Burns supper 2018 team not present but note to have some outline plans in place before the end of the summer term.</p>	Jillian, Evelyn, Carol and Lisa
3 Treasurers report	Outgoings of £240 to pay for School Angel cards to promote the fundraising portal.	
4 Chair report Liz Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Highland Parent Council Partnership (HPCP)</i> continues to be a strong link between schools and to the Council. Next meeting is <u>Thurs 23 Feb</u>. Annual Parent Council conference is <u>Sat 18 Nov</u> (good to have another Culloden parent attending both these) – a good chance to network and get ideas/ support. Now have rep on Education Committee and lobbying for x2 with voting rights. Governance Review closed. Having attended 2 focus groups and spoken widely, Liz sent in submission on behalf of CAPC (see website). • <i>A96 dualling</i>. New A96 will cut across 'The Hedges' this side of the gasworks. 500m from school. There will still be a path to continue cross country loop from the school. No submission made on behalf of CAPC. Personal submissions sent in. • Councillor Kate Stephen stepping down in March - thanks for all her support to Culloden Academy over the years. • Liz spoke at info-evening for S1, 2, 3 and had a table at parent's evening with leaflets. No other parents able to help so for economy will not be attending S4-6. • <i>Fund-raising School Angel</i> reminder/info post cards designed by S6 graph com students, 3000 printed at cost of £240. Cards have long term validity. • <i>Fund-raising Awards for All</i> application for funding Theatre Lights sent in. Asking for £6000. Have received promising feedback so far. 	Liz/ another parent?
5 School report Jenny Urquhart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digilearn Highland will support the roll out of the Chromebooks for all pupils; no firm date set for Culloden Academy but likely to be Jan 2018. • A Facebook page for the school is soon to be launched by Deputy Rector Tracey Lomas. • Dr Vance is attending a meeting on 7th Feb about how the Scottish Government £120 million to support education will be delivered. The money is to support pupils at risk of underachieving. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting parents - two course choice info meetings have been held so far with good turn outs. Those who had attended felt they had been very useful. Next evening is for S4/5 on 8th February. The same evening some parents of pupils in S1 have been invited to attend a mental agility evening offering them an opportunity to find out how they can support their children with numeracy. • Culloden's literacy and numeracy levels continue to rise year on year. This is measured by the percentage of pupils achieving National 5 level. Literacy has risen from 39.22% in 2012 to 60.31% in 2016. Numeracy has risen from 32.35% in 2012 to 57.73% in 2016. • The recent newspaper article in the Press and Journal regarding exclusions due to drug-related incidents contained historical information. At Culloden Academy, exclusion is seen as a last resort. PSE and targeted assemblies are used to provide information and where necessary outside agencies are involved to support pupils. • For much of the remainder of the term the S3 pupils will be supported in creating a LinkedIn profile to enable them to record their activities and achievements. It is hoped that pupils will keep this updated and will be useful when completing any necessary personal statements further on in their school career. • The school is currently developing a Learning Teaching Assessment Toolkit. The aim is to develop a booklet which will be an amalgamation of ideas gathered from all departments in the school. Ideas for pupils are also posted on the wall outside Mrs Urquhart's office. • Parental engagement was discussed - this is important for the school. Some ideas to encourage this were discussed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of useful websites list on school website under parent tab /?Facebook page - Availability of subject specific information to support subject choice as shown at course choice meetings - booklet or poster format for parent's evenings discussed - possibly use CAPC monies to fund this. - provision of support around the use of Chromebooks once timescale is available for these being issued - possibility of wider e-mail and text contacts available through SEEMIS and annual returns 	<p>Liz compiling</p> <p>Jenny/Liz/Gillian</p>
<p>6 Parental Involvement in Learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing learning aids and links that work well could be compiled on a bulletin board on the website under parent tab. Send in your good finds and useful links. • The arrival of Chromebooks and the widespread of use of Google classrooms next year is a big opportunity to engage parents. We discussed the idea of having year specific info evenings and/or drop chrome-book sessions/ events where there could be demonstrations and hands on chance to try out what Chromebooks do. STEM ambassadors may be able to help with this. Any parent with an interest in helping to organise and participate in such events, please get in touch. • Suggestion to bring a Chromebook to next meeting. • Ask HPCP whether an outside speaker can come to a future PC meeting or Chromebook event. • Acknowledgement that evening meetings and events are 	<p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>Dr Vance or Martyn?</p> <p>Liz</p>

	hard for many parents to access so should always have alternate ways of communication info such as email, Facebook and text.	
7 Succession planning	Liz raised that succession planning is needed to keep the Parent Council running. Liz will retire as Chair Sept 2017 AGM and is happy to support anyone taking on the role of Chair for their first 3-6 months. Concern expressed that without a Chair or parent team to share the running it would be difficult for the Parent Council to continue with knowledge/ continuity of IT systems and useful contacts being lost.	ongoing
AOB	One parent noted a suggestion for a PSE option - details have been forwarded to the school	ongoing
Upcoming dates	UHI taster evening - 9th Feb https://www.inverness.uhi.ac.uk/for-schools/news/schools-taster-evening Highland Parent Council Partnership meeting - 23rd May Annual Parent Council conference - Sat 18 Nov	
Next Meeting	Wednesday 17th May 2017 7pm in school staffroom All welcome	