

Culloden Academy Parent Council Minutes

17th May 2017

Staff room

7pm

Agenda Item		Action
1 Welcome and apologies	Present: Liz Green, James Vance, Martyn Crawshaw, Carol Piper, Jane Gill, Gillian Spalding, Helen Macdonald, Caroline Campbell, Jill Robertson, Evelyn Gray, Lisa Thomson, Paul McGovern	
	Apologies: Karen Dowling Jillian Walker and Mary McFarlane stepping down	
	As class groups in transition period, members present representative of all year groups except S2	
2 Previous minutes and matters arising	Minutes from January agreed by Jane and Helen. No matters arising	
3 Treasurers report	Current balance £3064.42 School Angel advertising cards cost £240	
4 Chair Report Liz Green	<p>School Angel - currently has raised £147, potential for much greater revenue through this fundraising portal. Information re using this available through the school website. Agreement to try to use school Facebook page to promote use.</p> <p>Awards for All - application successful for £7000, meaning new sound and light system have now been purchased. A total of approx. £16000 has been raised in total through Smarties tubes, raffles and teas and coffees at school events and the ward discretionary budgets. The systems will save the school £1000 on the hire of these items each time there is a school performance.</p> <p>Future projects - the Parent Council would like the school to consider how they could support a further project now this one is complete.</p> <p>The Scottish Governance Review consultation – to which CAPC responded - as to the future management of education has not released its findings.</p> <p>The nominations for this year's Young Ambassador Award, awarded by the Parent Council annually, have been considered. The calibre of candidates was very high and a winner and runner up have been chosen. Amazon vouchers will be awarded from CAPC along with a cup for the winner.</p> <p>Burns Night - the Riverside Rotary club has agreed to support the school in the running of this family evening event. They can provide a compere for the evening. Date agreed as Friday 19th January to avoid clashing with other events. Catering through THC, glasses from Millburn, sub-committee to take this forward. More parents needed to help.</p> <p>Careers event - 23rd June at Balloch Church pupils will have the opportunity to choose areas of interest and have the chance to have a mock interview. Gavin Murphy, guidance teacher in the school is arranging this.</p> <p>Chamber of Commerce - aims to rationalise opportunities from local businesses for the benefit of schools. A careers event open to all pupils and parents around November was agreed as a possibility. This would hopefully then assist with subject choices over the next few months. Subject prefects and STEM ambassadors could also support the event, along with any other businesses willing to participate. Agreed this is a major piece of work to co-ordinate and parents are needed to support the school in the organisation. Thanks were given to Liz for the huge amount of effort she put in to the organisation of the last event. Practicalities of working with Chamber of Commerce unknown but they are meeting with Dr Vance in school next week where the approach to arranging an event could be discussed. Liz to attend as parent council rep to find out more and</p>	<p>Jane/Liz</p> <p>Dr Vance</p> <p>Lisa, Carol and Evelyn plus others</p>

	<p>feed back to parent council. It was suggested that the school minibus could be used to help people get to the event who would otherwise be unable to.</p>	Dr Vance and Liz
<p>6 School Report Dr Vance</p>	<p>With regret Dr Vance informed us of the passing of Mrs Kirkwood who had recently retired from her post in the languages department. Several staff changes are occurring including the retiral in the summer of several long serving members of staff, Alison Maclean (PT of PE), James Brough (Teacher of Maths), Lynsey Shepherd (Pupil Support Teacher) and Ross Campbell (Teacher of Technology). New appointments have been made in Chemistry, Business, Social Subjects, Maths and Technical. Three probationary teachers will also hopefully join the staff after the summer.</p> <p>Janitorial staff - despite changes in the system Dr Vance has ensured that the janitorial role will remain the same in Culloden Academy at present.</p> <p>Media and parent councils - Dr Vance assured that the parent council in Culloden will not be asked to help to fund standard equipment. Careful budgeting has meant that the school has recently benefitted from new equipment in many departments including new text books, music technology equipment, a laser cutter and a 3D printer.</p> <p>Literacy levels - there has been some recent negative publicity around literacy levels. The trend in Culloden Academy is however very positive and steadily improving.</p> <p>The School Improvement Plan - this document will be available on the school website and is aligned with the National Improvement Priorities.</p> <p>Pupil Equity - following submission of the School Improvement Plan Culloden Academy has successfully acquired its allocated Scottish Government funds to support the attainment of pupil equity. Along with other initiatives, these monies will be used to fund two new non-teaching posts in the school to support pupils and families.</p>	
<p>7 Chrome books</p>	<p>Unfortunately demonstration not possible due internet issues. Model passed round to view. Discussion around practicalities of the use of these in school. Millburn pupils being issued with them in August, Culloden unlikely to get for another year. Opportunity to learn from Millburn's experience. One concern is the safe keeping of the Chrome books in school and the lack of lockers. It was agreed that the funding requirements around the practicalities of the Chrome books may be something the parent council could support the school with.</p>	
<p>8 Parental feedback and engagement</p>	<p>Discussion around trying to raise parental engagement. Dr Vance would like to know what parents want to ask or to know about. Suggestions were homework and the introduction of Chromebooks and possibly finding out parents preferred communication route. Any further ideas can be e-mailed to the school - culloden.academy@highland.gov.uk</p> <p>Using feedback forms to gather views on specific topics at parental engagement events was suggested. School Facebook page was suggested as a way of passing on relevant info from the parent council. Pieces of information could be posted regularly, using minutes as a source of info. Posts could be created and e-mailed to the school to be added to the page. Also suggested was approaching the Culloden and Smithton Juggernaut newsletter editors re parent council advertising/school info.</p> <p>The future of the parent council was also discussed. Liz will be stepping down as Chair in September 2017 and the posts of Chair and Vice Chair will be vacant. It was suggested the Chair could be a nominal role with sub-groups of parent council members taking projects forward.</p>	<p>Jane (Facebook) and Liz (Newsletter)</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>Monday 11th September 2017 7pm in school staffroom All welcome</p>	