

Culloden Academy Parent Council Minutes

11th September 2017

School Theatre

7pm

Agenda Item		Action
1 Welcome and apologies	Present: Liz Green, James Vance, Martyn Crawshaw, Carol Piper, Jane Gill, Gillian Spalding, Lisa Thomson, Jenny Urquhart, John McKillop, Kerry Challinor, Tony Gilfeather	
	Apologies: Helen Macdonald, Evelyn Gray, Mary MacFarlane	
	Members present representative of all year groups except S5	
2 Previous minutes and matters arising	Minutes from 2016 AGM agreed by Carol and Martyn. Volunteer parents for school trips still being sought, please contact culloden.academy@highland.gov.uk if you can offer support.	
3 School Report Dr Vance	<p><i>New Staff</i></p> <p>Biology- Claire Powell. Chemistry- Lyndsay Ledingham, Social Subjects- Kath Lothian, History- Fraser Gray, Maths- Amanda Christie, Technical- John McColl, MFL (PT)- Rhona Steel, PE (PT) Richie Sim, SfL- David Morrison, CSW (Inclusion and Support workers)- Rhona Stewart and Caroline Green, PSA- Jane Needham and Simon Patton</p> <p><i>Exam results</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S4 Level 5 is 45.9% which is up from 45.5% • S4 attaining 5+ at Level 4 is 68.9% which is up from 58.2%. S5 attaining 5+ Level 6 is 24.7% which is up from 19.9% last year. The Highland average was 17.2%. • S5 attaining 3+ Level 6- is 38.7% which is down from 44.8%. S5 attaining 5 Level 6 at A may be our highest ever (10). They are James MacLeod, Neil Crawshaw, Ishana Graham, Mabel Green, Alix Henderson, Nayeem Hussain, Ainsley Macdonald, Beth Mackenzie, Fergus MacNeill, Aleshia Macrae, Erin Swanson. • S6 attaining cumulative 5+ Highers- is 43.8%, up from 32%. I see this as a very positive response to the introduction of the 5 positive choices that pupils in S6 are expected to make. S6 attaining cumulative 3+ is 56.2% • S6 attaining 1+ Level 7 is 24.9%, which is up from 20.9% and 16.99% <p><i>Finance</i> is incredibly tight- I am now turning down requests for training courses and development work. Culloden now is entitled to 9 less teachers than we had 5 years ago, partly due to falling role (roughly 14 less pupils means one less teacher) and partly due to budget cuts. Whilst we can fund some teachers above entitlement this session, I am not sure how sustainable that will be. It is increasingly difficult to find supply cover for classes. Frustratingly medium term projections are for a much increased pupil role, so the school will have more teachers looking ahead but that does not help retention now.</p> <p><i>Governance</i>- nothing is finalised yet and the spectrum of possible outcomes is huge.</p> <p><i>DoE</i>- the help of volunteer parents and members of the community has been essential to the ongoing DoE programme in the school. We continue to look for new volunteers whilst appreciating the very generous support we already enjoy.</p> <p>Many thanks to Liz for all her time, effort and support throughout her time as Chair.</p>	

	We have prepared Questionnaires for all Parent Information Evenings- any comments welcomed from those present. It was agreed the format was good and these will be used this year to get parental feedback.	
3 Treasurers report	Current balance £2989.42 Limited activity throughout the past year	
4 Chair Report Liz Green	<p>Communication engaging the wider Parent Forum with Parent Council is difficult with only 180 signed up to receive emails. A parent council presence has been maintained at selected info and parents evenings over the past year by Liz and it is hoped this will continue with new Parent Council members. Over the year the Parent Council has had the opportunity to review the school development plan and also to respond to the Governance review. ASG links have been difficult to maintain due to changing contacts but it is hoped to rekindle these links. Liz is Secretary of the Highland wide Parent Council Partnership and has attended meetings and fed back to CAPC. Liz will attend as one of the two Culloden reps at the annual conference on 18 November along with the new Chair. John Swinney, Depute First Minister and Secretary for Education will be attending and will answer selected Parent Council questions at the event.</p> <p>Fundraising – School Angel is still a useful fundraising tool and hopefully will be successful in helping the school raise funds coming up to Christmas. The successful Awards for All application which the Parent Council helped to compile has meant the school has been able to complete the purchase of new sound and lighting system for theatre which will save significant amounts on hire of this equipment. Monies were and can in the future be raised through teas and coffees and raffles at school events.</p> <p>Looking Ahead <u>An evening <i>Careers event</i> is planned for Thurs. 16 Nov</u> - there is a need to engage with the Chamber of Commerce and to engage the help of senior prefects to help describe subjects, skills and possible career options with posters to help with subject choices. <u>The Burns Supper is planned for Friday 19 January.</u> A sub-group will take forward the planning of this event. Riverside Rotary are assisting with the planning of this event. The aim would be to sell tickets in advance, the Christmas concert would be an opportunity. <i>Return of the Highland Games</i> – the possibility of this was raised and it was agreed a sub-group would take this forward to consider a possible format and to find out if pupils would like to see this re-instated. The Parent Council and Riverside Rotary would organise the event jointly. A first meeting is to be arranged for next week at the school. The possibility of engaging local primary schools in the event is to be investigated.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Liz/New Chair</p> <p>Liz (initially) then new Chair</p> <p>Evelyn, Lisa, Liz, Kerry, Carol</p> <p>Tony, Kerry, Jane, Liz, Lisa</p> <p>Jenny</p>
6 Wider reach and representation	Alternative more informal formats might lead to better engagement with the Parent Forum, such as representation of topic specific stands at parents' evenings. This needs to be considered further. Facebook is a way of engaging a wide group of people and Jane is happy to take on setting up and managing a new Parent Council Facebook page.	<p>All</p> <p>Jane</p>
7 Recognising wider achievements	It is appreciated that many pupils have many achievements out with school and the school would like to share these successes with the school community. The Facebook page is perhaps an opportunity to enable this.	Jane
8 Election of Parent Council members and Office Bearers	All present intimated a wish to be members of the Parent Council, Helen and Evelyn who gave apologies also wish to continue as members. Tony Gilfeather was elected as Chair with Liz proposing and Jane seconding. Kerry Challinor was elected as Vice Chair with Liz proposing and Martyn seconding, Carol Piper will continue as Treasurer with Gillian proposing and Kerry seconding. Gillian Spalding will continue as Minute Secretary with Martyn proposing and Carol seconding.	

<p>9 AOB</p>	<p>1 Embrace is a critically acclaimed social impact documentary exploring negative body image. It was suggested the licence costing £300 could be purchased by CAPC and the school theatre used for a community screening, with the Parent Council providing teas and coffees afterwards. It was agreed to proceed with this and event details to be agreed after purchase.</p> <p>2 Scholar provides highly interactive, online material at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher for over 30 SQA courses. It is funded by the Scottish Government. Students and Parents can access Scholar via https://courses.scholar.hw.ac.uk/vle/scholar/ Parental username is: <i>schparents2018</i> and password: <i>week73city</i>. Pupils in S4, 5 and 6 have personal logins.</p>	<p>Jane/Carol</p>
<p>2017/2018 meetings</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 8 November 2017 Monday 29 January 2018 Wednesday 16 May 2018</p> <p>All meetings at 7pm in the school staffroom - go up the stairs beside the community reception and turn right.</p>	