

ALFORD ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

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Minutes of Meeting 20th June 2018

Present: Liz Strachan, Maria Rossi, Denise Smith, Tara Crooke, Sandy Innes, David Wyllie, Richard Stroud, Sarah McGregor, Marianne Crombie, Louise Mitchell, Angela Findlay, Andrew Christie

In Attendance: Moira Milne

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Colin Turnbull, Penny Fuller, Nicola Sedgwick and Charlotte Milburn

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting on 15th May 2018 were accepted as accurate.

Proposed by Sandy Innes

Seconded by Tara Crooke

Matters arising

2.1 Parent Council-Pupil Council partnership

Ongoing – carried forward to next meeting

ACTION: Parent Council-Pupil Council partnership - Penny Fuller will meet with the new Pupil Council after the summer and report to the Parent council at the next meeting. Moira Milne/Penny Fuller

2.2 Supporting learning

See item 6. School Improvement

2.3 Forum across all cluster schools

A successful information evening about university, apprenticeships and other career paths took place on June 6th. Last year, an internet safety event was held. It is hoped to plan other events such as these in the future.

ACTION: Parent Council aim to continue holding topic driven events for parents across all cluster schools.

2.4 Feedback from Information evening in June

At least 50 people attended the information evening, and the venue of the library worked well. Feedback was positive – the evening was informal and engaging, and good specific information was provided. There were several stations that people could choose which to visit in 15 minute slots.

2.5 School trips

Moira has shared with staff the Parent Council's support to consider residential excursions, initially in the UK and sought clarification that foreign trips should also be considered. It was agreed by parents present that they would like to see trips offered again if possible, both in the UK and abroad, with a maximum cost of approximately £500 being reasonable and with payments staggered - for example monthly over a period of 5-6 months. Moira shared staff costs associated with trips, the challenges of staffing at present and the need for all excursions to have educational impact and be equitable. The next step is for a group of staff volunteers to work on how/when to deliver excursions and other homebased learning experiences. Moira will give an update at the next meeting.

2.6 PVGs for parent volunteers

David Wyllie has contacted Caroline McIver and has the information about applications for PVGs for parents. If the help is non-specific for the future, it can be difficult to ensure that the PVG will cover the activity. It is hoped to have a bank of parent volunteers that are available to help at short notice. Sarah McGregor offered to help David Wyllie with this.

ACTION: David Wyllie and Sarah McGregor will organise PVG applications for parents interested in volunteering

3. Treasurer's report

In the main account there was £3942.40 on 20th June and in the lottery account £1131.00 at the end of May. Easyfundraising has generated £1027.18 to date. The school will fund this year's Award's Ceremony. The renewal for Show My Homework is due in August - £3,700 for 2 years and the Parent Council are happy to help fund this, however Moira is waiting to hear back from Aberdeenshire Council as this kind of external application may not be permitted in the future. This time, a single year renewal may be purchased, though this is not as cost effective.

4. Head Teacher's report

Staffing Update

Leaving

K Findlay (Guidance Teacher Craigievar)
J Holt (PT business/computing)
A Speirs (Computing)
S McQuaker (Drama)
S Johnstone (PT Guidance)
T Vickers (Music 2 days)

New Appointments

S Cookson – Depute Head Teacher (Curriculum and timetabling)
D Gerrie – PT Guidance – new house
V Williams - PT Guidance (Kildrummy)
J Mayo (PE) – to fill reduced days of T Macfarlane and B Cruickshank
D MacDonald Wilson – Maths probationer

V McNeil – Biology probationer
L Hunter – Music 3 days
D McCance (Art) – probationer- now permanent
K Henderson-Young (History) – probationer- now permanent
A Shearer (PE)– 2 days acting Principal Teacher of PE
I Gilliland – ASL
C McKay - ASL

Vacancies:

Principal Teacher of Guidance – Craigievar. (Lisa Lees acting PT Guidance from August)

Principal Teacher Science

Principal Teacher Business/Computing and teacher of Computing – this is a concern; however, the school are looking at utilising resources from other schools, colleges and virtual learning.

Drama - re-advertised

Modern Studies – vacancy as V Williams now PT of Guidance for Kildrummy

ASL – vacancy as D Gerrie now PT Guidance for new house

Highlights since last meeting:

- U14 football through to final.
- Swimming Team Relay Championships – Open girls team won silver and bronze.
- RGU S6 visit –interesting visit looking at different qualifications.
- YPI – Youth Philanthropy Initiative – 4 S5 pupils were chosen to give the closing remarks at a national YPI event in which 230 schools were represented from across Scotland. Emilie Sande and Calum Beattie were also at this event.
- Cupcake fundraising day for the Alzheimer’s Society
- P7 link week – Mackies partnership activities including making flavours in HE and moulding ice cream tubs in technical.

5. GDPR implications for Parent Councils

A template for a GDPR policy has been supplied by the Scottish Parent Teachers Council. Liz Strachan will send this out with our details to all on the email list. It was agreed that all communications should be sent without being able to see any other email addresses. Parents on the contact list who are not members of the Parent Council will be asked to consent, by email reply, if they wish to be retained on the list.

Moira shared that she was working through some GDPR advice in relation to the Awards Ceremony and data in publications. Parents felt strongly about maintaining a commemorative booklet with names of pupils in it and agreed David Wyllie write to help resolve the concerns. (Subsequent to the meeting, Moira resolved the concerns and booklets were provided at the event as usual)

ACTION: Liz Strachan will send out a privacy policy using the template supplied by the Scottish Parent Teacher’s Council.

6. School Improvement – Parental Engagement. Our strategy for next session.

Moira asked for feedback on how we can work together to help parents help their youngsters with learning. As an example, the tracking process could be used to engage parents and give out better information about ways to help their children.

Research indicates that if parents are involved in their child's education then the children generally do better at school.

David Wyllie suggested having an extra meeting to discuss the Parental Engagement Strategy a couple of weeks before the AGM. This will be arranged for Monday 27th August at 7.15pm.

7. Proposals for Funding

- Awards Ceremony 2018 – the school will fund this.
- SMHW - £3,700 in total over 2 years – will possibly only be renewed for one year this time (see Treasurer's Report)
- Girls' football kit - £575 – the team received sponsorship so no longer need Parent Council funding.

8. Date of next meeting

- Short meeting to discuss School Improvement Parental Engagement Strategy only - Monday 27th August 2018 at 7.15pm
- AGM – provisional date Monday 17th September 2018 at 7.15pm

Close 9.15pm

ACTION POINTS

ACTION: Parent Council-Pupil Council partnership - Penny Fuller will meet with the new Pupil Council after the summer and report to the Parent council at the next meeting. Moira Milne/Penny Fuller

ACTION: Parent Council aim to continue holding topic driven events for parents across all cluster schools.

ACTION: David Wyllie and Sarah McGregor will organise PVG applications for parents interested in volunteering

ACTION: Liz Strachan will send out a privacy policy using the template supplied by the Scottish Parent Teacher's Council.