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MINUTES OF THE ALFORD ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 14th June 2023 (7.00 – 8.00 pm)
Virtual - via Teams link

Attendees

Office Bearers:	Ingrid Huldal (Chair), Joe Purkis (Depute-chair), Dawn Brown (Treasurer), Coralie Robertson (Secretary)
Parent Council Members:	Monica Iloya, Karen Leven, Sharon Witherspoon, Tanya Viliene.
Parent Forum, former parents & P7 parents:	Linda Purkis, Fiona Woodhead, Amy Wilson Fay Mackay, Gillian Deal, Tracey Anderson, Andrew Anderson, Craig Wilson, Christine Wilson
School Staff:	Mrs Angela Wotherspoon - Head Teacher Dr Matt Skellern - Depute Head Teacher (Learning and Teaching) Mr Graham Scott - Depute Head Teacher (Pupil Support)
Councillors:	Cllr Jeff Goodhall, Cllr Anouk Kloppert

1. Welcome & apologies

Apologies:

Parent Council members: Fiona Henderson, Frank Sewell, Charlotte Millburn.
Additionally: Grannie Patton, Mr Stuart Cookson - Depute Head Teacher (Curriculum), Cllr Sarah Brown, Cllr Blackett, Cllr Iris Walker.

2. Review of previous meeting minutes and matters arising

- Minutes of 10th May and EGM 15th May approved by Joe Purkis, seconded by Fiona Woodhead.
- Actions for sub-groups covered in item 4.
- Mr Skellern arranged a meeting to review Broad General Education (BGE) reports with parents on 19th June.
- Mrs Wotherspoon spoke to Mr Cookson about reviewing the information about Foundation Apprenticeships on the school's website.
- Document with information about PC changing to charitable status was sent out the PC members and the parent forum.
- Discussion with parents about home learning/homework will be in the new session.
- Number of subjects offered in S3 enables pupils to have breadth with greater depth to support subjects in S4/5/6 which is seen when staff review attainment. School continues to review attainment with data from SQA exams in August.

3. Treasurer Report

Balance from the last meeting: £8,280.25

Easy fundraising received this month £91.63

Balance currently £8,371.88

Yet to come of account;

Cheque to be paid out for the school basketball kit – £420.05 (new receipt from AA)

Football girls kit £417 (approved)

School awards ceremony £1800

Total projected balance £5,734.83

£4027.32 is ring-fenced for the Outdoor Space Project

Projected Balance (available) £1,707.51

4. Sub-committee updates

FUNDRASING

- U15 girls football team gave a presentation about the fundraising they will be doing to reach their target of £200 to add to the PC contribution of £417, so they can buy new football strips for the next season playing in the U15 league. They plan to run 150 miles as a team using the 'walk a mile' during their training sessions. The U15s girls thanked the PC for their contribution.
- Marr Area Committee Large Grant Scheme 2023/24 application
 - Form completed for grant to support Outdoor space project. Mrs Wotherspoon advised there is still work to be done as a PPP school to be able to provide assurances on ability to complete within timescales required by the grant and information had been passed to the Business Manager.
 - Large Grant Scheme (up to £5,000) applications are accepted once in a year, so application will now be prepared for next year's scheme.
 - Small Grant Scheme (up to £2,000) applications are accepted all year and will be considered once all the information has been gathered.
 - The application was a useful exercise to show what we will need to take advantage of these opportunities in the future.
- Tesco Community Grant. Application requires similar information as the Marr Area Committee Grant from the Business Manager and further consultation with the Student Council through the Parent Council & Pupil Partnership sub-group.
- Fundraising and social events will be looked at when school returns after the summer.

Action

Submit application to Marr Area Funding	Fundraising sub-group
Submit a Tesco application for the Outdoor Space project	Fundraising sub-group
Fundraising/Social Event for new term	Fundraising sub-group
Discuss installation and maintenance of outdoor equipment with Business Manager	Coralie

PARENT COUNCIL & PUPIL PARTNERSHIP

- Parent Council representatives will be invited to meet the new Student Council once it is formed.
- School are currently highlighting pupil leadership opportunities for the year ahead, including Student Council Reps.
- Volunteers for Chair and Depute of the student council have stepped forward and the council are planning a meeting for nominating board members.

Action

Arrange meeting with Student Council	Parent Council & Pupil Partnership sub-group
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HORIZONS

No update due to exams.

COMMUNITY GROUP LINK: ASN

- Alford Academy has 44% of pupils with Additional Support Needs (ASN) covering a wide range of areas, including mental and physical. (Across schools in Aberdeenshire the average is 47%).
- School has Principal Teacher of ASN and works in partnership with staff and parents to identify ASN, unless a specialist assessment is required, for example through Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).
- School has teachers specialising in autism and dyslexia who can speak to the PC.
- School receives no specific funding for ASN, but staff are trained and skilled in particular areas. School does receive Pupil Equity Funding for S1-S3 pupils who have free school meals and this is for closing the poverty attainment gap. School fund the post of Mrs Jo Munro as Principal Teacher Equity, Excellence and Wellbeing to support families.
- School was passed information about Inclusion Ambassadors, however, the timescale for applications was too short.
- PC are looking at how best to support school with ASN sub-group.

Action

Look at how best to support school with ASN sub-group.	ASN sub-group
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COMMUNICATION

Photos of PC office bearers and latest meeting have been sent to Communications sub-group to be put onto the school website.

Action

Add PC pictures to school website.	Communication sub-group
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5. Head update

- Will be putting Improvement Plan to parents to see what the school is working on going forward.
- Activities days for S1 – S3 were held for the first time since Covid with some pupils experiencing a school trip for the first time having missed out during their P7 year. There were residential trips to Aviemore, London and York, 3 days experiences and a variety of one day trips and activities in school. The school received positive and constructive feedback from pupils and parents.
- It was acknowledged that current S5 and S6 missed out on school trips due to Covid. Would be difficult to timetable an activities week during these exam years (S1-S3 activities were run during the school's study leave period). School trips for S4-S6 have re-started with a trip to Iceland and school dances have resumed offering social opportunities.
- S1 pupils learnt live saving skills during a session with the Ambulance Service.
- Congratulations to S4 pupil Stuart and the considerable achievements he has made recently. On 4th March Stuart went down to Glasgow to compete in the 2nd round of heats of The Next Big Thing at a Venue called 'The Bungalow'. He played 'Lucy's song' and was one of six who made it through to the finals. On 15th March Stuart competed in the Inverurie heat of the Scottish competition The Emmerdale – U have Talent. He won the heat and now goes through to the Final on the 9th June at Leonardo's Hotel, Aberdeen Airport. On 28th April, Stuart was invited to perform as an Alumni at the Aberdeen/Aberdeenshire heat finals for the Aberdeen Scottish Schools GLEE competition. Stuart was invited to perform on 30th May at Inverurie Town Hall as part of 'The Lockdown Live – Unlocked' weekend. He was also invited to perform outside Inverurie Town Hall on Sunday 7th May as part of the Inverurie Street Party to celebrate the King's Coronation. Most recently, Stuart has just heard that his song 'Promises and Regrets' has made it to the top 10 of the National competition Young Songwriter Competition 2023.
- S3 Emily achieved 12th place in the National Figure Skating Championships.
- One of the junior basketball coaches, William, has recently started coaching his own primary teams on a Wednesday after school. He also plays and captains the senior team at Alford as well as playing for the Alford Bears adults' team. On the 20th May, William completed his Level 1 referee course, delivered at Alford Academy with seven other candidates.
- There was a Junior Rangers week in the Cairngorms where pupils gained their John Muir award.
- Pupils started their Foundation Apprenticeship in Civil Engineering.
- Link week started on 12th June with P7 pupils enjoying a variety of subjects such as Technical, drama, maths, science.
- Blazer fitting on 15th June.
- Health and Wellbeing day on 22nd June.
- Award Ceremony on 27th June (Juniors) and 28th June (Seniors).
- Senior Executive are interviewing for the rest of the Prefect team.
- House Captain interviews are taking place.

Staffing:

- Acting Principal Teacher of Guidance is being recruited for maternity cover.
- 2 day a week post is being advertised for PE.
- Posts advertised for one full time and one half time staff for Business.
- New Principal Teacher of Maths (Acting).

Depute Head Teacher (Learning and Teaching) update

- Tracking and Monitoring meeting to look at Broad General Education (BGE) reports with parents and feedback from staff.
- Whole school working groups for staff leadership opportunities.
- Professional learning for staff to upskill and looking at ways for staff to share their experience across school.
- Starting to look at information for next year's SQA to be able to get this out to parents sooner.

Depute Head Teacher (Curriculum) update

(provided by Mrs Wotherspoon)

- Mr Cookson has been focussing on timetabling.
- Mrs Wotherspoon and Mr Cookson gave a presentation on Alford Academy's School Leaver Profile at a showcase event for the Excelerate School and the work was highly regarded.

Depute Head Teacher (Pupil Support) update

- Link week going well.
- Launched Young Philanthropy Initiative in PSE for S4s where they work with local charities and present a business case, with the best presentation being awarded £3,000 for their charity.

6. High level summary of EGM on Inspection

Due to a shorter PC meeting, this will be carried forward to the next meeting.

7. Parent Council charitable status

- PC office bearers put forward a case for the PC to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organization (SCIO) at the last PC meeting to provide greater opportunities to access funding or grants.
- Dawn, who is experienced in working with SCIO's, has advised throughout the process and information was sent out to PC members and the parent forum about what is required to become a SCIO.
- Becoming a SCIO requires a constitutional change. The PC constitution states: The constitution may be changed after discussion at a Parent Council meeting and obtaining consent from two-thirds of the members of the Parent Council present at a meeting.
- A vote on changing the PC to a SCIO was held with PC members present (in the room and on Teams) with 8 members all voting for SCIO status.
- The constitution states: The Parent Forum will then be sent a copy of any proposed amendments and given reasonable time to respond to the proposed changes before any further action is taken.
- The Parent Forum will be asked for comment on the change of status to a SCIO.

Action

Ask Parent Forum for comment on change to SCIO status	Coralie
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8. AOB

Donna Gray is standing down as PC member and member of the Community link (ASN) sub-group and the PC would like to thank her for her time and support she has given the PC.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 19th September 2023 - AGM

Parent Council meeting dates (2023/2024)

Tuesday 19th September 2023 - AGM
Wednesday 22nd November 2023
Tuesday 23rd January 2024
Wednesday 13th March 2024
Tuesday 14th May 2024
Wednesday 19th June 2024 (P7 welcome)

Parent Council Members 2022 - 2023 (Quorum 6):

Karen Leven	(S1)
Tanya Viliene	(S1)
Dawn Brown (Treasurer)	(S2)
Lucy Greene	(S2)
Sharon Witherspoon	(S3)
Coralie Robertson (Secretary)	(S3)
Fiona Henderson	(S3, S1)
Joe Purkis (Depute Chair)	(S4)
Monica Iloya	(S4)
Sarah Lewis	(S4, S2)
Frank Sewell	(S5, S4, S2)
Denise Smith	(S6, S4)
Ingrid Huldal (Chair)	(S6, S1)
Charlotte Milburn	(S6, S2)

Parent Council Sub-committee Members 2022-2023:

Fundraising	Ingrid Huldal, Grainne Paton, Coralie Robertson, Dawn Brown
Parent Council-Pupil Partnership	Frank Sewell, Coralie Robertson
Community Group Link: Additional Support Needs	Rhona Stuart, Lisa Moir
Horizons	Joe Purkis, Lisa Moir
Communication	Charlotte Millburn, Dawn Brown