

## **Kirkcudbright Academy Parent Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Present:** Chair: Laura Moodie Clerk: Julia Archibald

Rector: Anthony Tuffery Teacher Rep. Shameen Syed

Local Councillor: Andy McFarlane

Co-opted Members Paul Tebay

Parent Members: Kathryn King Jacqueline White, Clair Baxter

Parent Forum: Emma Harrington-Patel

**Zoom:** Treasurer: Gill Durham, Lesley Garbutt, Deborah Trotter, Lesley Shepperton

### **1. Welcome & Apologies**

Apologies: Claire Johnston, John Denerley, Marion Macarthur, Dougie Campbell, Elizabeth Parsons

### **2. Approval of last Minutes and any matters arising**

Proposed: Jacqueline White Seconded Kathryn King

Paul Tebay wanted to report back on the successful S1 trip to Barcaple which was staffed by Rotary volunteers. Almost too many people wanted to volunteer for the trip as they get as much out of it as the school participants!

### **3 Treasurer's Report**

Account stands at £9164.48

Gill is keen to organise the handover of the money to the school.

Liz has to organise the removal of her name as a signatory, for the account to be fully up and running.

The Summer Festivities have now taken over the running of the Half Marathon but this will no longer be a fund raiser for the school. Another fund raiser to replace this needs to be found.

December draw winner: Claire Johnston January draw winner: Mr and Mrs Hannah

### **4. Chair's Report**

The Chair's report was circulated in advance but Laura gave verbal updates where things have developed since it was circulated:

School Buses – Safety on the Ringford, Barcaple, Twynholm route

Laura and Clair have met with Dougie Campbell who has taken this issue on from John Denerley. They are in discussion with Gillian Brydson-, Head of Education, and Douglas Kirkpatrick- Swestrans. The Chair has suggested that, as well as the particular issues faced by parents on the above bus, a review of the all buses, their routes and numbers using each bus is required to make sure that these are appropriate for the school's current requirements. The last such review was in 2015.

The further safety issue of pupils being told to ‘double up’ by the driver on one bus was raised by Clair. Deborah Trotter was concerned about the late arrival of buses, particularly for the Prelims currently taking place.

There is no Tynholm bus at the moment as there is no driver. Recruitment is being undertaken

## **5. Head’s Report**

Prelims are going ahead as planned. As the number of pupils requiring learning support increases so does the need for Learning Support staff particularly during exams. The equivalent of four fulltime learning support assistants cannot cover some exams when 8-10 pupils require support (e.g. English). If a reader is needed it is a requirement that they have worked with that pupil previously. Deborah Trotter emphasised that support staff should have the appropriate qualifications and should be known to the child. This matter should be referred back to the Head of Education. Mr Tuffery emphasised that this is an exam support issue and not a general issue.

**ACTION** Laura to raise the issue of learning support for exams with Gillian Brydson.

UCAS applications

Of the 36 pupils who are applying, 26 have been offered places, 15 of whom have unconditional offers

Pantomime

This was very impressive and Mr Tuffery is pleased that productions are up and running again. The summer production – Grease - is underway. The first time the school has attempted two shows in a year.

## **6. Pupil Council Report**

No representatives were present. Mr Tuffery commented that the Pupil Council is looking at the UN Charter on the Rights of the Child.

**ACTION** Laura to reach out to Pupil Council

## **7. Rotary Report**

Norway Trip

Paul Tebay said that the arrangements for the trip were going well Four pupils from S3 will be going to Fredrikstad (two and a half hours from Oslo) staying with local families 5<sup>th</sup> February to 10<sup>th</sup>. They will be accompanied by Shameen and Miss Jackson. The return exchange then takes place 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> February. As well as the pupils involved, parents, the school and the Rotary are drawing up a plan of activities for the exchange. The Norwegian staff will be hosted by the Rotary. . The exchange is seen as beneficial both educationally and culturally. Kathryn King said that other pupils who missed out on their trip due to Covid are keen to go independently. Mr Tuffery added that whole families are also wishing to visit.

Other Rotary activities

Young Photographer competition now completed.

Young Writer- Gerry Hassan is meeting Head of English with a view to encouraging writing.

Young Musician Competition- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 6:00pm Paul encouraged everyone to attend to provide an audience

Spelling Bee 1<sup>st</sup> March- needs volunteers to take part.

Cluster Concert -not going ahead.

Kate Picken thanked for all her work with the primary school choirs.

Cluster Quiz- as yet only Kirkcudbright cluster have entered for the South region. The cluster competition may be in Cochran Hall.

## **8.School Condition and Council Plan**

Andy McFarlane meets with Dougie Campbell and John Denerley regularly. They are making the case to D&G council about the essential repairs and replacements/refurbishments required at the school accompanied by photographs.

### Transport

It is seven years since the last review of the transport requirements for the school. The issue of pupils having to cross the A75 to the current bus pick up point is ongoing. The council's position is that as pupils are choosing to cross to the pick-up point. Safety is the pupils (parents) responsibility.

Andy emphasised the influence that public opinion has on council decisions, citing the Castle Douglas Aldi decision making. Parents need to continue putting on the pressure.

The Council is currently consulting on its plan for 2023-2028, so there is an opportunity to emphasise the need for improvements to the school fabric and how that aligns with the stated objectives and planned outcomes.

**ACTION** Laura will produce a template response to this and circulate to parents. Deadline for responses is 31<sup>st</sup> January.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jfe7X7xSKGiYEOk8QGtBzbQm3DA\\_u2fKnwIQeddxGno/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jfe7X7xSKGiYEOk8QGtBzbQm3DA_u2fKnwIQeddxGno/edit?usp=sharing)

Mr Tuffery queried the cost per pupil in PPP schools compared to non-PPP schools (Public Private Partnership) in the area which raises issues of equity and equality. Andy considered that money has been spent on Dumfries schools but not in the wider area.

## **9. Active Travel**

-The parent council is seeking parents who are keen to support the development of active travel resources. Steven Templeton manages the Eco schools project and would like to hear from parents as to barriers to cycling and /or walking to school.

-four parents are interested in pursuing bike storage funding.

Information exists with the council as to how pupils travel to and from school. Cycling did increase massively during Covid and has remained at a high level

Cycling proficiency- Bikeability- is not available at the moment.

### Parent Portal

Mrs Robinson, the School Support Manager, has asked for parents to sign up to the Parent Portal as the main means of communication between the school and parents. This will save enormously on paper and printing and will be a more efficient and effective means of communication. It has been piloted in Kirkcudbright Primary through the school meals system.

Duke of Edinburgh Awards are planned to take place. Rotarian Richard Ryal has offered help. Kathryn King mentioned the need for 9 months of volunteering service for the award.

Scholar - an online learning resource was mentioned by Deborah Trotter. Mr Tuffery said the school is not on this yet.

#### **10.AOB and Date of next meeting**

There will be an adult Candlemas in the summer.

Please note the change of time for the next PC meetings.

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March **6:00pm**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May **6:00pm**

AGM Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June **6:00pm**