

Kirkcudbright Academy Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 3rd May 2023

Present: Chair: Laura Moodie Treasurer: Gill Durham Clerk: Julia Archibald

Rector: Anthony Tuffery Teacher Rep. Shameen Syed

Co-opted Members Paul Tebay

Parent Members: Kathryn King, Clair Baxter

Parent Forum: Emma Harrington-Patel

Zoom Elizabeth Parsons Claire Johnston

1. Welcome & Apologies John Denerley, Jacqueline White, Lesley Garbutt, Deborah Trotter

2. Approval of last Minutes and any matters arising

The Minutes were approved. No matters arising.

4. Rotary Report brought forward as Paul had another meeting. Paul gave the update on what the Rotary has been involved in. Please also see the Rotary update. Rotary members who attended the Right Respecting School event enjoyed this. Note: the school now has the Silver award.

Young Artist- 7th -25th June The Art work featured in the competition will be on display in the Tollbooth. The Primary school is not running this as a competition but will still be supported by the Rotary. The Academy are continuing as before.

Young Chef- the competition will be on 23rd May. S3 pupils are currently working in the kitchen at the Selkirk Arms with the chef who will be one of the judges.

Young Scientist -the Chemistry department is running this. The practical part will take place on 18th May.

RYLA- Rotary Youth Leadership Award This is a week-long course which costs £650. Initially four students had expressed an interest but this is down to two who are applying to the Hollywood trust for funding of £500 each. Rotary is prepared to make up the remainder.

Paul also explained that the Rotary will hold its Visionary Meeting on 13th May. One of its aims is to encourage members to take on a specific role or task sharing the burden of running Rotary activities.

ACTION Paul will elaborate on this at the next meeting.

Mr Tuffery then explained that Paul is stepping down from his role as Chair this year. Mr Tuffery continued by saying that he and Paul had taken on their respective leadership roles at about the same time and had worked together to establish and increase the role of the Rotary within the school over the last ten years.

Mr Tuffery wished to have it recorded how much the work of the Rotary is appreciated and how important it is to continue this relationship.

Paul expressed how much he has enjoyed working with staff, pupils and the PC over the years.

3. Pupil Council there were no representatives of the Pupil Council at the meeting and Laura commented that the Head Boy and Head Girl have found it difficult to be involved so because of their other commitments. Discussions are ongoing about a change of structure within S6 pupil participation

to spread the leadership commitments out among more pupils. Perhaps having more leaders of each house or asking one to write a report but have a different pupil deliver it, promoting a wider engagement of pupils. Laura emphasised the importance of keeping the pupil voice. Shameen commented that it was a normal part of senior school responsibility.

5. Treasurer's Report

Account stands at £8915:85

Gill was delighted to announce that after much time spent on the phone the online banking system was now operational.

Achieve – funding for this online resource has now been paid.

May draw winner- Neil Cavers June draw winner Angharad Storrie

Mr Tuffery raised the issue of PC funds and how they are to be spent in school. The school has not been receiving funding from the PC partly due to the banking issues. This has resulted in activities and projects not taking place because of the lack of funds and has made planning by the school difficult when they don't know if funding for costs will be forthcoming. In particular running costs for the minibus have often come from PC funds. Mr Tuffery emphasised that the PC should not be sitting on large quantities of cash.

Laura responded by pointing out that the PC did need a reserve. A calendar of events could be useful as to what is coming up needing funding. This could be looked at in the AGM.

ACTION Gill to speak to Rebecca Hickman School Support Manager about the amount of funds required to enable operation of the minibus.

6. Chair's Report

Laura commented that the Rights Respecting Schools assessors were very impressed with the pupils' work.

Lost Property was still lurking and perhaps a date for a sale was needed. Gill suggested that the entrepreneurial group in S5 could be involved in this and perhaps combine lost property and no longer needed uniform in a sale as a fundraiser. There is a uniform bank in school and spare uniform is needed for giving out on various occasions. Elizabeth suggested that Lost Property could be part of a school sustainability drive

PC Newsletter which was available at Parent Evenings could be further developed perhaps featuring community events, fundraising, how PC funds are spent etc. Distribution could be through school email, KBT town website, Gatehouse Facebook, school website.

ACTION Laura to look into the development of the Newsletter.

7. Head's Report Mr Tuffery commented that Rights Respecting Schools has been a major success. The initial level was straight forward but the Silver showed that the school was actually getting on with it. The Gold was perhaps a two-year long process in order to get change embedded. The assessors for the Silver award were very impressed, particularly with the written submission they were sent in advance. Miss Irving is the leader along with a core group and a wider involvement amongst pupils who want to have a voice. Some rights under discussion reflect world issues nor necessarily significant locally but the whole programme has seen change being initiated and sustained and is viewed as good for the school as well as the pupils involved.

Exams- Mr Tuffery reminded everyone that for one half of the school lessons are continuing as normal. For the others the exams are progressing as usual with some issues as always which are being addressed

as they occur. Mr Tuffery reminded all that it is the individual pupil timetable that needs to be followed and not the SQA One.

Staff and Timetabling next academic year- Mr Tuffery said that he was expecting a full complement of staff with the exception of Languages. (Miss Murray is still unwell but more cover may be available). Languages provision may not improve in the short term as the post can only be offered as temporary. Pupils are relying on distance learning which has been successful for the well- motivated but does not work well with the general cohort.

Pupils support during exams. Gill commented that she is very impressed with the level of support available to pupils. Laura commented on the quality of the pastoral care available and praised the teaching staff for their hard work particularly in these areas.

Prizegiving- will take place on Thursday 1st June and Friday 2nd June for seniors. The Friday Prizegiving features a get together for parents of leavers with the traditional strawberry tarts and volunteers will be required for this. Emma is able to do this.

Laura raised concerns about the Leadership Award which is sponsored by BP Oil Company. Mr Tuffery said there was no ongoing support from the company but the original trophies had been donated by them. He continued that nearly all the prizes are sponsored and some have a long history connected to this area. It would be difficult to say no to one award and not another. Some awards have lost relevance over the years or have funding attached to them and they are difficult to discontinue. Mr Tuffery noted the concerns over some sponsorship. Laura suggested that this was something the Pupil Council might look at and Mr Tuffery agreed that this could be a course of action.

S6 involvement in leadership. As mentioned previously there is discussion about revamping the 6th year involvement in leadership to perhaps make it wider or more inclusive. Development of the Pupil Council is also seen as an area for review and a potential future growth area.

8. School Transport Laura suggested an online survey aimed at parents which could also promote walking and cycling to school. This would also assist with assessing funding for a school bike rack.

ACTION Laura to develop a survey.

9. Fundraising Laura will get in touch with Jacqueline White over her idea for a summer fund raiser.

10.AOB School Estates Consultation Laura had hoped to attend the meeting at Newton Stewart but this was cancelled and Laura was unable to make the rescheduled meeting. The Dalbeattie meeting was reported on as being cautious but well run. Laura is in discussion with the Dalry and Kells PCs and others and hopes to keep these discussions going All want the same outcomes of best education and integration with the community for their schools. Mr Tuffery stated that this was not a short-term consultation but looking at the educational requirements for 15-20 year's time given the massively falling numbers of pupils across Dumfries and Galloway. Councillor Young's position as being keen to close KBT Academy and spreading this message was not seen as helpful.

Gill asked what was going to happen to the painting that was bought by the PC last year for KAHMS. Mr Tuffery suggested that the PC should retain ownership of it, as they have copywrite, and display the painting in school.

Applications of Maths. Mr Tuffery announced that 7-9 S4 pupils had signed up for the Higher and this would be running alongside Higher Maths. It has been straightforward to initiate.

It is noted that Darcy has been working successfully with P7 transition group helping with the school show round.

Date of next meeting:

AGM. Please note the new date and time Monday 19th June at 700pm