

Kirkcudbright Academy Parent Council Meeting

AGM 30th June 2022

Present: Chair: Liz Kettle, Treasurer: Gill Durham, Clerk: Julia Archibald,

Rector: Anthony Tuffrey, Teacher Rep: Shameen Syed, Local Councillor: John Denerley (and BSL Interpreter Winston Denerley), Co-opted Members, Paul Tebay, Lesley Garbutt,

Parent Council Members: Deborah Trotter, Laura Moodie, Jaqueline White

Parent Forum Nanette Hall, Clare Baxter, Michelle McClure, Claire Johnston

1. **Apologies**, Suneeta Rathore, Elizabeth Parsons, Andy McFarlane

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

AGM 21st June 2021 Proposed: Laura Moodie Seconded: Jacqueline White

No matters arising.

3. **Chair's Report**

Liz welcomed recently elected Dee and Glenkens Councillor John Denerley and his son, BSL interpreter, Winston. John has another son in P1 Kirkcudbright Primary school and is keen to promote the use of British Sign Language in both the primary and secondary schools. John is on the Education committee for D&G Council and will be aware of funding issues in this area.

Having surveyed members of the School Senior Management Team and Parent Council Members recently the following areas of interest were raised:

P.C wanted stronger links with the S6 Prefect group, Pupil Council, and Head Boy/Girl,

School wanted the P.C to share any positive feedback received, and use social media for this.

Possible set-up of a PC newsletter to publicise PC contributions to the school; how donations are being used, photos of handovers of funds etc

School staff were complimentary about the PC and its ability to investigate and dispel fake news and gossip (behaviours on School buses, apparent drug taking on school grounds and in town, education achievements and placement in Times rankings were all examples of issues the Chair had investigated and reported back on, to the satisfaction of most of the Parent Forum.) It was felt that there were good relations between PC and Senior Management.

PC wanted school to welcome fresh ideas from the P.C without feeling it was being overly critical but enthusiastic and supportive.

Feedback from the PC to Senior Management was to be encouraged and Outreach meetings in Gatehouse and Auchencairn had gone a long way to achieve this. At these unminuted meetings people feel they can speak more freely.

The use of Zoom through Lockdown up to the present had attracted more parent participation and the hybrid meetings were set to continue.

Liz as part of her handover to a new Chair and the committee will meet over the summer to discuss the way ahead.

Parents felt The Rotary Club was also a very welcome presence in School.

KAHM- A scaled back event took place on May 28th 2022 with the Half Marathon, 10km Race and H.M Walk attracting over 260 entries. - No Fun Run or stalls. For school staff this made the event more manageable, but raised slightly less. Next year should be the 40th year of KAHM and the school will need to decide whether it continues to support the event. There was no adult Candlemas this year and few other fundraising opportunities.

Home Economics and Technical subjects

At the specific request of Mr Tuffery in 2018/9 onwards the PC had been fund raising to support Home Ec. and Tech departments; Council funding for them had been reduced annually then finally cut completely and it was felt both subjects were in a precarious position. Some funding has apparently now been re-instated though Mr Tuffery had no details for the Parent Council. Sponsorship monies amounting to £1400 (500 already allocated + 900) were raised recently by the P.C and will go towards the cost of raw materials in both departments. Cheque for £900 will be presented on the last day of term.

4. Treasurer's Report

June Draw winner was Paul Tebay

Bank balance 30th June £10691:73

Liz had raised £2000 in sponsorship for the half marathon before the event. The Bake Sale on the day raised £423.

The painting from a local artist Annie Butler – prints of which were given instead of medals, - cost less than the budgeted amount for medals and trophies. The PC owns the copyright for the original painting and can produce prints etc for fundraising in the future. Final figures of monies raised will be available at the start of the August term.

5. Resignation and Election of Officers and Parent Members

After period of five years in the role of Chair (extended from the usual three at the request of school) Liz Kettle is standing down.

Laura Moodie elected as Chair Proposed by Gill Durham and seconded by Nanette Hall.

Liz suggested that a Vice Chair could also be appointed as used to be the case and this will be considered further in the new term.

Jaqueline White encouraged active support of the Chair role by delegating tasks amongst new members.

Clare Baxter and Claire Johnston became Parent Members.

6.AOB

A bill has been received from the Council for the (reduced) sum of £108 for the TTRO (road closures for the Half marathon). Gill will request that this payment is dropped in the future.

Debbie Trotter asked whether there had been any progress in the School Librarian question. Liz said no but it was an ongoing issue.

Laura pointed out that many resources are available from Scottish Schools Library services

Gill will make a freedom of information request from D&G Council as to which schools in the region have Librarians. John Denerley is happy to be involved with this enquiry and will lobby the Council accordingly. He also took the opportunity to congratulate Kirkcudbright Academy on its improvement in ranking. Mr Tuffrey will consult with Councillor Denerley over the Librarian issue.

7. Date of next Meeting.

AGM 2023 Wednesday 21st June 2023 5:30 School Library

Next PC Meeting Wednesday 14th September 5:30 School Library

There was then a presentation of gardening implements to Liz from the Parent Council and flowers and thanks from Mr Tuffery on behalf of school staff for her excellent service as Chair.