

Kirkcudbright Academy Parent Council Meeting AGM

Monday 19th June 2023

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

Co-opted Member Lesley Garbutt

Parent Members: Clair Baxter Jacqueline White Debbie Trotter

Parent Forum: Emma Harrington May Boam James Boam

Zoom Elizabeth Parsons Aileen Currie Councillor: Andy Macfarlane

1. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies Claire Johnstone, Marion MacArthur, Kathryn King

2. Approval of 2022 AGM Minutes and any matters arising

The Minutes were approved. No matters arising.

3. Chair's Report

Having commented on the busy nature of the year as parents, pupils and staff return to something like a pre-Covid normality and acknowledging that some social and extra curricula difficulties remain, Laura gave a comprehensive outline of the issues and actions the Parent Council has been involved in this past year including:

The September planning session- very inspirational though numbers of volunteers limited follow through of some ideas.

A presence at Parent Engagement evenings and Newsletter keeping parents informed

Purchase of Let's Achieve online revision program for pupils.

Minibus maintenance and repairs.

Handing over of the Half Marathon to Summer Festivities.

The UN Rights of the Child Awards.

Introducing Hybrid meeting format.

Laura further commented on the need to focus on fund raising this coming year and thanked Jacqueline White for organizing the programme for Grease as a fund raiser.

Thanks were also expressed for Paul Tebay's long support of the school and PC as he is standing down from Chairmanship of the Rotary Club, the presentation of an engraved quaich in gratitude for his work to be made.

Thanks also to Mr Tuffery and the members of the PC for their efforts help and support.

4. Treasurer's Report

Account stands at £3923:85

£5000 has been given to the school for maintenance of the minibus and repairs following damage done by vandalism.

Rebecca Hickman- School Support Manager will keep the PC informed if further work on the minibus is required.

It was decided that the balance will be kept for projects next year. Debbie Trotter suggested greater involvement with school planning to make funding available. Laura suggested a more strategic approach to funding rather than providing money as and when something comes up. There is awareness that some potential activities have not happened due to concern over funding. The need for more dialogue with the school and Rebecca is acknowledged and perhaps Rebecca's emails could be more widely shared.

Gill felt it was important to share with parents where the money is going and also to inform them of the things like the vandalism to the school minibus to highlight issues of responsibility.

Debbie suggested that the availability of funding could be mentioned at the August whole staff meeting and suggestions welcomed for potential areas of spending.

Draw winners: July: Mr and Mrs Hannah August: Isabel Hinklemann

Gill requested a greater push for people to sign up for the draw particularly at the beginning of the new school year.

Jacqueline asked for money to cover some of the food costs for the Grease event on Friday which are not covered by donations. Gill to cover costs from receipts.

5. Resignations and Election of Office Bearers and Parent members.

Laura, Gill and Julia agreed to remain in their roles. Gill stated that this would be her final year as Treasurer.

Paul Tebay and Kathryn King are resigning.

Two new members were welcomed. Deborah Harrington and May Boam.

There are nine Parent members which is the full amount but space for two co-opted members is available perhaps for the new intake in August.

Please see attached sheet for details and note new members email addresses.

6. AOB

In the light of the incident at Loch Ken at the weekend. Gill asked that a message about water safety could go out on the Facebook page and wondered about a letter to parents.

ACTION Gill has Water Safety material which she will pass to Laura.

School buses

May Boam raised the issue of the cancellation of the Borgue bus due to a breakdown when children were left stranded at the side of the road. The Group Call message announcing the cancellation of the bus was received at 8:35 by which time parents had done the drop off and were on their own way to work. A number of parents commented on the ongoing issues with School Transport – children arriving late for exams (the school accommodates this by altering the start time of exams or giving affected pupils the additional time required).Also the issue with the Twynholm bus were children have to cross

the A75 to the bus stop. These issues have been raised with the Council and with .Gillian Brydson Director of Education and the Transport Manager.but there has been no change.

Councillor Andy Macfarlane recognised that there are difficulties with school transport across the region but stated that the adversarial nature of comments was inappropriate. He emphasised that the council take these issues very seriously and clearly there is work to be done. Education is the largest part of the Council's budget. He requested that issues are flagged to find solutions through working together.

Laura responded by saying that parents are frustrated because various issues had been going on for too long and although Gillian Brydson and School Transport had been consulted, nothing has changed. Parents are being penalized for living in a rural area. It is not acceptable for children to be stranded at the roadside and this needs to be a priority. Andy requested that examples of incidents should be emailed to him. The School Support Manager will have a list of Group Call messages sent to parents re:transport. It was suggested that Group Call could perhaps also be used to contact other parents who might be able to give a lift.

Friday Night Grease fundraiser

Jacqueline informed the meeting of the arrangements for the fundraising sale of hot dogs ,popcorn, soft drinks before Friday night's performance. She has obtained donations from the Co-op, Tesco and the KeyStore of food etc and also a raffle prize from The Wee Pottery. A float will be needed for the sales. Facebook and flyers will be used to promote the event. Elizabeth will make the pricing posters. Volunteers were enlisted to help at various points.

Cinema

Laura suggested staging cinema film events throughout the coming year as fundraisers. She has experience in this area as does Elizabeth. This could replace the Half Marathon as the main fund raiser for the school. Lesley remarked that they should not clash with film events run by the Planetarium.

7. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 12th September 6:00pm tbc

AGM Monday 17th June 2024 tbc