

Kirkcudbright Academy Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 12th September 2023

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

Rector: Anthony Tuffery Teacher Rep. Shameen Syed

Co-opted Members Lesley Garbutt

Parent Members Emma Harrington-Patel

Zoom, Jacqueline White, Deborah Trotter Lesley Garbutt (apologies for late joining), Nicolas Boyes, Susan Hall

1. Welcome &Apologies Claire Johnstone, Dougie Campbell Andy McFarlane -out of office notices

2.Approval of last Minutes and any matters arising

The Minutes were approved. No matters arising.

3. Treasurer's Report Account stands at £4068:85

£200 has been handed over to the Staff Welfare Fund.

The end of school year forms are underway.

Someone has been found to approve the accounts.

4. Chairperson's Report

This report has been circulated in advance. Laura reminded everyone of the ongoing need for volunteers and also of the WhatsApp group for parents and helpers. The resignation of Elizabeth Parsons was announced. Space is available for new members of the council both parents and co-opted members.

5. Head's Report

Mr Tuffery commented that the term had got underway with a reasonable start. S1 were settling in. There are some friendship issues dating back to Primary school but help is available in most cases.

Thursday 14th September Dealing with Anxiety evening meeting for parents and interested parties. Information such as helping children with anxiety relating to school, exams and other issues will be considered.

Y3 There is an intake of new pupils from Dalry school to accommodate their subject choices. Some pupils are following older siblings. Castle Douglas is also accepting pupils. The children are fitting into existing classes It may soon be appropriate to run a minibus for these pupils .Laura welcomed any parents from this group.

Exam Results: a full analysis has yet to be made by Scottish government but results are in line with local and national results.

Mr Tuffery commented that some Y6 pupils had failed to turn up for their exams on the basis of already having a University offer in contrast to some fabulous results for other y6 pupils.

Staffing levels. The school has its full complement of staff apart from Modern Languages where interim measures are in place. The school can only offer a temporary contract for this post due to the long term illness of the languages member of staff. Despite repeated advertising there has been no interest in a temporary post understandably. Mr Perez Moreno is doing an excellent job in Spanish (being Spanish he brings an added cultural perspective to the post). At the senior level pupils access material from Edinburgh College online.

Mr Tuffery acknowledged concern about languages access across the UK in the long term.

Neither of the surveys at the school identified RAAC in the building.

Home Economics refurbishment has been delayed for the removal of asbestos. Refurbishment may now take place in October.

Kirkcudbright Academy Endowment Trust are funding an external cover outside the dining hall which will shelter the outside tables and benches.

6. Pupil Council No members of the Pupil Council present. A way forward to continue links with the Pupil Council and the new House Captains is to be developed.

7. Rotary Report At the moment there is no replacement for Paul Tebay as his former role is still evolving. Paul may keep some aspects of his former involvement going. However, the Rotary is committed to supporting the school and it is anticipated that all the usual Rotary led activities will take place. Laura emphasised the importance of this link to the local community and its benefits to pupils.

8. Fundraising This entailed a long discussion in the course of which the need for a separate Fundraising committee was established. Laura also emphasised the importance of building up PC funds this year.

Action Develop a Fundraising Committee via WhatsApp.

Staff Wish List Gill suggested that staff requiring funding that the PC may be able to supply, should be able to approach the PC in time for a decision to be taken at the PC meeting.

Mr Tuffery emphasised that PC funds should be used for projects that provided the most benefit to the greatest number of pupils eg Achieve which supports exam revision is a beneficial project. Funding was refused for hiring a bus to take pupils to Dumfries for a UCAS conference as it was thought pupils could travel to Dumfries by normal bus service using their free travel cards or with parental involvement providing lifts. Shameen pointed out that there is plenty of UCAS information on line.

Gill mentioned the possibility of the Art Department needing a new kiln. There was some discussion as to whether new elements were needed or greater knowledge of the operating instructions. Gill mentioned that she had a kiln that the school could use and that she knew others who may be able to help in this way. Jaqueline thought that Fiona who owns and runs the Wee Pottery might help out.

Action Jaqueline to make further enquiries from Fiona.

Monthly Draw Gill pointed out that numbers participating in the Monthly Draw are down from 50 to 30 approximately. New members perhaps from the new intake of parents are needed.

Mobile Cinema Borgue Community have the equipment needed to run a film showing, available for a £10 donation. Laura is the contact for this. This also requires a Hospitality license which costs £170 for the screening of a films over a year. The screening cannot be advertised out with the school. It is proposed that there should be a screening for Halloween and for Christmas. Friday 3rd November was

chosen for the first screening. The school hall or the Cochrane Hall could be used for this. Mr Tuffery pointed out that these must be booked through the council though the school does have priority booking and time must be allowed for setting up beforehand and cleaning up afterwards.

Pantomime Jacqueline informed the PC of the progress being made to design the programme for Alice in Wonderland. Andy White in collaboration with Hannah Gill and the school has created a number of designs to use for advertising the production, tickets, as well as the programme itself which will be along similar lines to the Grease programme. Jacqueline was able to show some of the art work online. Tickets will be £8 for adults and £5 for children. It was decided that the programme will be on sale for £1. There will be other fundraising goods for sale on the night.

Gill suggested local sponsorship for the back page of the programme Shameen suggested a 'lucky programme' competition. Jacqueline said the costs for producing the programme would be met as they were for the Grease programme.

Gill asked if there would be an adult Candlemas event this year. The consensus was that there would be an adult event but not necessarily at Candlemas itself.

9. Parent Queries Clarification was requested over the role of school Houses. Mr Tuffery explained that they were mainly for administrative purposes as well as pastoral support. The new format of having three House Captains is hoped to invigorate the role of the House in the school as well as to lead to inter House competition. This is still in the development stage and is pupil led.

10. School Transport Mr Tuffery stated that three pupils have now been temporarily banned from using one of the school buses.

Deborah asked whether there is local forum for raising bus issues. Laura responded by saying not at the moment but Douglas Kirkpatrick of SWestrans does respond to emails and does raise transport issues with the council. The issue of children having to cross the A75 to catch the bus is thought to be ongoing as is the issue around the capacity of the service. Deborah also pointed out that the 5:17 service bus had failed to operate today. Laura thought this was due to an ongoing shortage of bus drivers but should be raised with the Council.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme Deborah asked if this was available to pupils this year. Mr Tuffery thought that it was with Mr Groundsell organising it.

Action Mr Tuffery to update DofE.

Monthly Draw September : Gwen Shaw

Dates of next meetings:

Tuesday 7th November 6:00pm

Tuesday 12th December 6:00pm

Tuesday 6th February 6:00pm

Tuesday 19th March 6:00pm

Tuesday 7th May 6:00pm

AGM – Monday 17th June 7:00pm

All meetings in the school library and Zoom.