

Kirkcudbright Academy Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 7th November 2023

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

Parent Members: Clair Baxter, Emma Harrington

Acting Rector Ms Susan Brown, Teacher Rep. Shameen Syed

Zoom Claire Johnstone, Elinor Dorian Councillor: Andy Macfarlane

1. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies: Jacqueline White, Deborah Trotter, Lesley Garbutt

Laura welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Ms Brown who is taking Mr Tuffery's place while he is on a six-month secondment.

2. Approval of last Minutes and any matters arising

The Minutes were approved. The September Minutes had not yet been uploaded to the website.

Action: Julia to enquire about upload of September minutes.

3. Treasurer's Report

The account stands at £4086.85

There are no requests from the school for funding at this time.

November Draw winner: Liz Kettle December: Gill Durham

3b. Fundraising

The discussion on Fundraising ensued.

The film showing for Halloween did not take place and the December film showing was cancelled as it was felt that there was already enough going on with the Christmas Fair and the Pantomime. The Christmas Fair is on Friday 8th December 2:00pm-6:00pm. The Parent Council plan to run a Christmas Café at the event with baking (donations appreciated).

Action Parents to be approached for baking for the stall and Jacqueline White to be asked to provide chocolate popcorn.

Action: Laura to contact S6 to discuss plans.

Emma suggested jam tarts as part of the Panto fundraising and again parents could be approached. Laura to check with Drama department about this. Shameen will let the Pupil Leadership team know about PC fundraising especially in areas they might be able to help with.

Action Shout out via Facebook re: jam tarts and Shameen to liaise with Pupil Leadership team.

It was decided that funds raised from the Fair should be shared between S6 funds and PC funds for and funds raised from the Panto should be for the Music Department.

Adult Candlemass This is a Ceilidh for parents and the wider community. The Junior and Senior Candlemass events are run by the Senior pupils who feel that they do not have time or energy to then run an adult event. Laura suggested that a request should go out on Facebook to see if there is interest in attending or running an Adult Candlemas in 2024 and to ask for volunteers to assist with the running of it.

Action: Laura to put out a Facebook message.

4. Chair's Report this was circulated in advance. There were no comments.

5. Head's Report

Ms Brown opened by saying she was happy to be at the school. As it was only day two of her tenure, she was busy with meeting pupils and staff and getting to find her way around.

She is meeting with Rachel Williams the Quality Improvement Manager using the 'How good is your school document' to support continuous school improvement.

There is an authority led Inclusive Practice Review coming up during which five principal teachers review how well all childrens' needs are met. This is a non- judgemental review to provide positive action points advice for the school.

There is a cluster Heads meeting and Ms Brown will also be meeting with S6 pupils who wish to organise something for Children in Need.

A 'Do the right thing' workshop run by the police and involving the whole school will take place on Thursday.

S1 Parents Meeting on Wednesday. PC will organise Teas and Coffees. Emma suggested that S3 pupils could help and Shameen will ask S6 and those with younger siblings who will be attending the meeting to help. Gill reminded everyone that more support for the monthly draw is needed.

Andy MacFarlane took the opportunity to also welcome Ms Brown and to ask what school she had come from (Annan). He also encouraged Ms Brown to reach out to elected members as required.

6. Rotary Update Rotary events continue but no members expected to attend PC meetings.

7. Fundraising See Treasurer's report.

8. AOB Andy asked how pupils now coming from Dalry school were settling in. Shameen who teaches all of them was able to comment that they seem to be settling in well and have a positive and diligent manner. Andy mentioned that Dalry parents were concerned about travel arrangements. Currently lift sharing is happening. Laura has also been in touch with some of the Dalry parents.

Transport Pupils are still crossing the A75 in order to get their bus. Andy commented that there were issues with school transport across the ward, including Castle Douglas. He is in contact with Douglas Kirkpatrick of SWestrans. The main issue is lack of bus drivers. Andy welcomes any feedback on this topic. Laura announced that a Bus User's Group has been created to keep pressure on school transport.

Shameen said that the Pupil Leadership Team is keen to be involved with the PC and being informed of decisions etc. This was welcomed.

Dates of next meetings

Tuesday 6th February 6:00pm

Tuesday 19th March 6:00pm

Tuesday 7th May 6:00pm

AGM Monday 17th June 2024 tbc

All meetings in the school library and Zoom