

Kirkcudbright Academy Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 8th October 2024

Present: Chair: Laura Moodie Treasurer: Gill Durham / Emma Harrington Clerk: Julia Archibald

Rector: Mr Tuffery Teacher Rep. Shameen Syed

Pupil Council: William Cawthorne

Parent Members: Rebecca McFarlane, Neil Robins Clair Baxter

Parent Forum: Angharad Storrie Matthew Moodie

Rotary Chair: Mike Duguid

Zoom Councillor John Denerley and SL interpreter, Lesley Garbutt, Barnaby Fryer

1. Welcome & Apologies Claire Johnston, Jacqueline White

2. Approval of last Minutes and any matters arising

The Minutes are approved. No matters arising.

3. Pupil Liaison

William Cawthorne represented the Pupil Council and reported that the council were working well as a team. They are currently busy with devising the Quiz and organising the Y6 Prom which is to be at the Cocoa Bean Factory. The McLelland assembly was this week. The other two House assemblies will follow. William asked for a progress report on the Prefect Common Room . Mr Tuffery replied that work was ongoing, and an alternative room was not available. After a vote by the prefects the Common Room will be a social space rather than a study space. Gill and Laura asked if the PC could help with clearing out the room and Mr Tuffery replied that it wasn't so much about clearing the room but about keeping and storing what was in there appropriately. Mrs Clucky is supervising this.

Action Mr Tuffery to check on progress.

4. Community Liaison

Youth Activity Programme The PC welcomed Mike Duguid, the new Rotary representative to the Parent Council. Mike presented the Youth Activity Programme for 2024/2025. Please see attached. He highlighted Youth Speaks which is coming up on 14th November. Mr Duguid also queried whether the Young Musician activity will take place in February /March next year due to staff maternity leave. The S1 Activity Days budget will need external funding. It may run in December, but water activity will not be available at that time as it will be too cold.

Action Laura to email Activities programme to Julia.

Warm Clothes Event – The Johnston Sunday 17th November from 11am to 3pm. The school will have a rail to try and clear Lost Property and anything remaining will go the local clothing bank. Neil and Rebecca will help with this. Laura may be able to help also.

Kirkcudbright Development Trust – are looking for trustees. Interested parties to contact Debbie Craig.

5. Head's Report

Mr Tuffery said he had had a busy few weeks of out of school meetings. He reported back on the Exam Appeals – 32 appeals had been made of which two were successful in Higher Maths and Chemistry.

Rain damage and flooding in the RS classroom - Laura asked about this. Mr Tuffery responded that leaks had been reported previously but the classroom had suffered badly with water ingress over the weekend. This is partly due to the design of the drainpipe system which runs internally. Ms Syed will be teaching in the Library or in Rm 25 or Rm 36 until repairs are made. Ms Syed reported that fortunately no teaching resources were damaged. Other parts of the school are also affected. The Biology lab. has leaks. Technical workshop and Dining Hall have sky lights that leak. Ground floor of the three-storey block by the fire escape and the old school hall both have problems with leaks. The Music Room has had issues with black mould though not at the moment. These issues are reported and repaired but not repaired adequately. Kirkcudbright Academy are tenants of the building, and it is the landlord's (D&G Council) responsibility to repair the building.

School fabric - This led to a discussion on the state of the school fabric which is listed as Category C - poor. Dumfries High School is also a Category C although work is going on at the High School. Consultation is ongoing about a number of schools in the region both on the state of repair and whether with falling roles some schools should be mothballed. There will be a public consultation about the future of the school estates on 5th November at Dalbeattie High School.

School mothballing – A Councillor in the Castle Douglas & Crocketford Ward has called for the closure of Kirkcudbright and Castle Douglas schools and the creation of a combined super school, although this is regarded as a long-term project.

Councillor Denerley then spoke via his interpreter saying that he along with Councillors Dougie Campbell and Andy Macfarlane had visited the school (and Castle Douglas) to see the state of repair for themselves. All three councillors are involved with the Mothballing policy working group.

Legally Blonde Production A number of queries have been made with the Parent Council in relation to the preparations for a full-scale production of Legally Blonde. Matthew Moodie asked whether a professional band was being hired for the performance. Mr Tuffery responded by saying he did not believe this was the case. This is a school production to highlight the work of pupils as with all previous performances. About 80 pupils will be involved in this performance. The school had to purchase a license to put on this performance and that means that the musical score cannot be altered. Therefore, some professional musicians may take part to boost the competence of pupils but they would be from the Instrumental Music Service as in the past.

A further question was asked about maternity cover. Mr Tuffery answered that no applications had been received following a recent advert. The post will be advertised again as a part-time position, and it is hoped that if more than one person applies the post may be covered as two part-time positions.

Barnaby Fryer asked two questions about the recent drama residential course – two nights at Cally Palace. Firstly, how had that been financed and secondly how did taking pupils out of school tie in with the emphasis on good attendance? Mr Tuffery gave assurance that no funding had come from school funds, but the cost was covered by sponsors and a good rate for the booking which had been given by Cally Palace. Laura further confirmed that no funding came from PC Funds. The workshop was for twelve pupils who are taking the leading, named roles in the production. The drama residential is no different to pupil absence on other school trips or for sports fixtures. It is part of the school's role to support opportunities and the development of life skills for young people which are not part of the core curriculum but which enhance the whole curriculum experience. Mr Tuffery stated that he would have been happy to discuss this with Mr Fryer and the issue did not have to go to the PC to which Mr Fryer

replied that he thought the PC was the proper place to raise this and this was confirmed by Laura. Mr Fryer emphasised that he has no wish to spoil future trips and thanked Mr Tuffery and Laura for making the situation clear.

Action Laura to put out a statement that no PC funding was used.

6. Treasurer's Report

Gill is in the process of handing over to Emma Harrington.

Account stands at £2008:97.

Tesco funding-The Tesco blue chip appeal has ended and, while the school was not the top cause supported (that was Kirkcudbright Primary), The PC was advised by Tesco to put in future applications for funding which Gill is happy to do. Other local funding sources will also be approached. Neil suggested applying to the community benefit funds of wind farms /solar farms (potential solar farm at Mutehill).

P.E. equipment Following the annual inspection of P.E. equipment there had been a number of recommendations potentially amounting to £10,000. However, with appropriate repairs and judicious use of the equipment the school was able to cut this cost considerably e.g the removal, repair and reinstallation of the basketball hoops. However, some equipment such as the crash mats had a finite life and would need replaced at some date. Rebecca said new hockey sticks were needed.

Action Gill to speak to Rebecca Hickman and get a list of needs and requests and to make applications to Tesco for funding. Laura will ask Rebecca to send out a survey to parents to gather ideas for other fundraising activities.

Ceilidh – was not a success with few people attending, possibly because it was a Sunday evening. Gill suggested the adult Candlemas dance and asked for a message to parents to gauge interest. Rebecca Hickman would be able to do this on group call.

Action Laura to ask Rebecca to do this.

Music has requested a mixing desk but there are no funds for this. Music Technology has become a popular subject but the equipment needed is expensive. Gill has a contact in the music business who may be able to supply budget equipment. Mr Tuffery hoped that the income from Legally Blonde may provide funding for this.

Draw for the Parent Council is always keen to have new participants in the draw!

September winner Jane Maitland

October Lesley Garbutt

November John Frew

December Margarat Shamash

January Gwen Shaw

Laptops The Galloway GreenTech quote is to supply 20 laptops (5 laptops free of charge) for £1800. Mr Tuffery said that although these laptops would not connect to the school network, they would be a very valuable resource and that the Glow account would still be available. Gill said that as there was only £2,000 in the PC funds purchase would need to await receipt of funds from Tesco. Mr Tuffery replied that it was a good price and that, if necessary, school funding might be used and that he should be kept informed of progress on this.

The Treasurer's Report was completed by Gill saying that the August draw winner AJ Houfe has asked that bulbs for the school grounds be purchased with their winnings.

7. Chair's Report

This was circulated in advance. No comments or questions.

8. AOB

None

Next Meeting

Tuesday 11th February 6:00pm