

Gleniffer High School
Parent Council

Subject: General Parent Council Meeting No. 0557

Date: 8/01/18 7.00pm-9.00pm

Minutes taken by: Sandra O'Hare

Venue: Gleniffer High School

Date Issued:

Present:

Lesley Binning	Parent Member
Alastair McGhee	Parent member
Lorraine Carslaw	Parent Member
Iain McKenzie	Parent Member
Caroline Young	Parent Member
Lesley Gibson	Parent Member
Jackie Kydd	Parent Member
Sandra O'Hare	Parent Member
Fiona Fairbrother	Parent Member
George Walker	Parent Member
Karen Anderson	Parent Member
Georgina Kent	Parent Member
John Phillips	Parent Member

Lisa Chalmers	Head Teacher
Nicola Crawford	Teacher
Margie Walker	Teacher
Ciara Phillips	Head Girl
Robbie Campbell	Head Boy

Cllr McCartin	Local Councillor\
Shiona Lawson	School Librarian

Apologies

Margaret McCartney	Parent Member
Kevin Jose	Parent Member
Stuart Sinclair	Parent Member
Dorothy McCann	Parent Member
Carolann Davidson	Parent Member
Cllr Montgomery	Local Councillor

Distribution List:

Peter MacLeod	Director of Children's Services
Steven Quinn	Assistant Director (Education)
Stephen Burns	Councillor, Renfrewshire Council
Marie McGurk	Councillor, Renfrewshire Council
Lorraine Cameron	Councillor, Renfrewshire Council
Eddie Devine	Councillor, Renfrewshire Council
Paul Mack	Councillor, Renfrewshire Council
Kevin Montgomery	Councillor, Renfrewshire Council
Alison Warnock	Acting Head Teacher, Bushes Primary School
Hilary Paterson	Head Teacher, Heriot Primary School
Graeme McLean	Head Teacher, Langcraigs Primary School
Claire MacGregor Duncan	Head Teacher, Lochfield Primary School
Marie-Claire Temple	Head Teacher, Brediland Primary School

1. Welcome and Introductions

LB welcomed everyone to the meeting – particularly Shiona Lawson the new librarian with Gleniffer High School.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received as above.

3. Comments/Approval of previous Minutes 4 December 2017 –

Proposed by: George Walker
Seconded: Iain McKenzie

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

None.

5. Parental Engagement

PC Twitter link removed. Website updated with correct email address. School to set up parent focus groups on 30 January, 1 February and 8 February 2018 to obtain views of parents and their child's experiences.

It was agreed a survey monkey would be prepared as a means to try and engage parents. It would be published on Facebook and Twitter. It was agreed George Walker, Alistair McGhee, Lesley Gibson and Karen Anderson would form a group to agree 3 or 4 questions to be used in the survey monkey. The purpose was to decide what aspects the PC parent council is seeking feedback on. LC would like feedback on the family learning scheme. It was suggested there could be a

question regarding social media issues that could perhaps help parents understand the issues and be equipped to protect their child. It could be asked how would a parent want this to be carried out and if indeed this is something they would wish. There could be a question regarding online learning and is it an issue. It was also suggested there could be a question about possible stress that pupils encounter. It was suggested we could ask if parents had any other concerns. Further questions could be what is important to a parent, what are they interested in attending at school, LC was

keen that suggestions were given and the questions were not too vague. It was agreed we should emphasize what we do to help parents and can engage and support them in many issues. The group will feedback on their discussions with regard to the specific questions at the next meeting.

6. Teachers Report

G Factor – took place on Friday 15th December, the winner was Emily Punton in S4. We raised a grand total of £753.70, which will be divided between the 4 House charities.

Prelims – The National 5 prelims took place at the beginning of December for the S4/5 pupils. Reports back from the new Chief Invigilator, Bob Hart, that all went smoothly.

Panto – S1 & S2 pupils attended the panto Jack & the Beanstalk, on Tuesday 19th December at the SEC Armadillo. The production was in 3D and starred Gary ‘Tank Commander’ and ‘The Dolls’. The pupils and the staff thoroughly enjoyed the production.

Work Experience

Work experience will be taking place and the way this is set up will be looked at for next year to ensure inclusion. S4 choices interviews will be taking place and parents will now be involved in this process. Pupil Equity Fund officer will target S3 pupils where there are 3 or 4 under achieving.

7. Presentation from Shiona Lawson, School Librarian

SL has been a librarian for 38 years previously working in the Mitchell Library then moving to a school on the Isle of Bute and being made redundant. Her aim is to impart a love of books on pupils. In addition, she wants pupils to be able to access information from reference books and be able to cite authorities. This is a useful skill as pupils move on to college and university. SL over the last few months has been getting to know the pupils and engage with them. She has introduced eye catching displays. She has been involved in re-cycling books that are out of date and using them in a craft club. Sixth year have been assisting her

with volunteering and mentoring. She is involved in peer reading groups. There are 10 regular volunteers. She hopes to issue certificates under the the pupil school librarian scheme. She set up a library committee so that pupils can decide what they wish. SL also talked about the Scottish Book Week at the end of November and a book face competition for 1st to 6th years. Paisley Museum carried out a workshop to involve research on a World War 1 Paisley soldier using original source materials which pupils found fascinating. This included old newspapers and maps of the area. Future plans include a Burns display and for Chinese New Year. Dyslexia friendly books have been recently purchased including a dyslexic dictionary. It is hoped this will assist the inclusion and equality. SL hopes to do a display of blank book spines which will be completed to show books books being read. She hopes this will create a good display. SL hopes to use iPad and technology as another way of looking at books. She hopes to become involved in the transition with the feeder schools. She believes pupils are interested in her previous work at the Mitchell Library and she may arrange a visit there and to the Edinburgh Book Festival. The Parent Council made an offer to do anything they can to assist her.

8. Head Girl/Head Boy Report

YPI – Finals

Christmas Party for S1 – S2 was well attended.

Gladiator Games 13 December for S1 and S2 with S6 pupils acting as gladiators. Glen 1 and Glen 2 were in the final. A member of staff was injured in the games.

13 December 2017 Carol concert

14 December 2017 Christmas Snowball Dance. 230 pupils attended which was a new record. The tickets cost £10 and a lot of money was raised for the 6th year school prom.

9. Head Teachers Report

Contents of Report

1. Staffing update.
2. Calendar Items
3. PEF/SAC Update
4. Other items

1. Mr Colin Gilles was the preferred candidate for the post of PT Physical Education and is due to start the first week in February.

The annual staffing exercise is due to be returned to HQ on Wednesday 10th January. Heather Prentice and I have met to discuss the anticipated staffing levels for next

session and will be working closely with the local authority and other HTs to have a full staffing complement for next session. School roll is expected to be 1123 next session which is lower and is mainly due to a small S4 year group of which higher than usual numbers are expected to leave.

2. Higher prelims commence on Thursday 11th January and run over seven days.
S4 Work Experience commences on Monday 15th January with almost all S4 pupils attending a work placement.
The Hearty Lives group continue to work with external partners and next week there is a Handball Olympian in school to meet with groups of young people. This is following the visits from a professional ballerina.
Review of our Child Protection Procedures takes place on Friday 19th January and will involve representatives from the local authority as well as myself and Evelyn Feggans.
Week beginning 22nd January is Holocaust Memorial Week. The Humanities faculty will be leading activity and we have been invited to a special joint event with East Renfrewshire Council on the evening of the 23rd.
S4 Options interviews commence in week beginning 22nd January with individual interviews taking place between young people and a DHT. Parents/carers will also be invited to take part. This is a change to practice and we hope will ensure young people will be encouraged to make the most appropriate choices for attainment and pathways through a more in-depth individualised discussion.
S2 pupils will participate in Forensics week in the week beginning 29th January. There will be an introductory assembly on the Friday before and during this week pupils will be involved in analysis, problem-solving and learning about scientific investigation as they try to solve a crime. Should be good fun as well as great learning.
The Malawi group are having a ball in the Glynhill Hotel on Friday 2nd February to raise funds for their construction project. Tickets are priced £30 and are on sale now. Parents were invited to GHS to hear from staff leaders and Outlook Expeditions on Thursday 4th January about the trip and the organisation required before they set off. Pre-training for the pupils will take place at the beginning of March. We also hope to hold another parents' session in school over the next couple of months.

3. PEF and SAC Update

Chris Mollins one of the Inclusion Officers (PEF Funded) is starting a small-scale project to work with 3-4 young people who are at risk of disengaging or underachieving in school. His project will involve restorative approaches and will include class teachers as part of the process. It is hoped that this will not only have a positive impact on the young people targeted for the work but will also be a good lead in to rolling out restorative practice across the school. His work is based on the research of Ross W. Greene PhD.

Cathie Macleod (SAC funded transition teacher) is now working with our cluster primaries but will keep a link with Gleniffer High until she returns here in August.

Attainment reports have been produced by Nicola Crawford for all year groups now. Responsibility lies with PTs Curriculum and Pastoral Support as well as DHTs to make contact or intervene where there are significant concerns. All parties are aware of their responsibilities. We will look to track progress as a result of the interventions at the end of the session so that we can identify what strategies have had the most success.

4. The Chaplaincy Team delivered "Christmas Unwrapped" sessions to primarily S1/2 pupils in the week beginning 4th December. GO30 was decorated and set up with different stations to allow pupils to hear about the meaning of Christmas and allow them to explore some of their own ideas. The feedback from pupils was very positive and we are very grateful to the team, particularly Georgette and Muriel, for their lead in this activity.

Angela Conboy our link Education Manager was in school for a Quality Assurance visit on 7th December. Angela was evaluating our tracking processes and discussing with Aileen Sangster and I, what we were doing to tackle underperformance in cohorts of young people. Action points were agreed, however we were both reassured that we know our young people and have a clear strategy for continuing to improve outcomes for learners.

I met with Michael Harker (Educational Psychologist) on 11th December to learn about Renfrewshire's approach to Nurturing Approaches and GHS' position within this. This will be a feature for staff development as we move into next session.

The Secondary Head Teachers met on 13th December. One of the agenda items was Head Teacher's Charter and Governance. Renfrewshire is now part of the Glasgow City Region Collaborative, known locally as the West Partnership, which is led by Mhairi Shaw (Director of Education East Renfrewshire Council). This collaborative is a platform for collaboration across the region. Each local authority will retain its own governance of education and with that accountability and duties to support schools to improve. The collaborative will provide increased opportunities for joint working and improvement as already seen in the seminars, which took place in September as a result of Making Maths Count.

Remit meetings take place with SMT next week to identify the strategic and operation work which will be undertaken during this term.

10. Any Other Business

It was suggested some support could be given to pupils on how to study, perhaps in the form of supported study classes. The next meeting will be 5 February 2018.