

Hyndland Secondary School Parent Council

Meeting Thursday 16 January 2025, online via Microsoft Team, 6.30pm

Present: Alex McTier (chair, AM), Graham McFarlane (GM, vice chair), Kirsty Greaves (KG) and Alastair Dalton-Hopwood (joint secretaries).

Parents/carers: Alison Emery, Christoph Wagner, Elizabeth Beidler, Frances Poet, Andrea MacDuffie, Graham Whitfield, Stella Consonni, Charlotte Roper, Mabel Lau.

School staff: Louise Edgerton (LE, headteacher), Gavin Tulloch (GT, English teacher and Parent Council liaison), Kate Samuel (KS), Emma Hammill (EH).

Minutes of last meeting proposed by GM and seconded by AM.

Matters arising held over to the next meeting: Playground visit, fruit/salad in Fuel Zone, cameras for art department.

Presentation on The Teenage Brain by KS and EH

Overview of training given to school staff over the last two years. Presentation to be added to Parent Council page on school website.

Head Teacher's Report

LE shared a letter summarising the findings of the school inspection in November by Education Scotland, whose conclusions included:

Senior staff set very high expectations “creating an exemplary ethos of ambition through strong strategic leadership and shared vision”.

“Outstanding culture and environment for learning across the school supports young people to be empowered partners in their learning.”

“Teachers who work collaboratively to ensure approaches to learner engagement and learner conversations are very high quality, consistent and well planned.”

“Teachers deliver excellent innovative classroom experiences which empower young people to take lead roles in their learning.”

“Outstanding levels of attainment across all stages...all young people attain exceptionally well.”

The school was rated “excellent” (top of six-point scale) for both “learning, teaching and assessment” and raising attainment and achievement” - which LE thought was the first awarded to a school since 2007 [it was actually the first since the current inspection regime was introduced in 2016].

Areas for improvement = those identified in the school's improvement plan, including "a focus on learning, teaching and assessment and raising attainment and achievement."

LE said: "We're delighted. This is wonderful for the school community".

The inspection included a survey in which 800 pupils, 105 parents and 80 staff took part, while inspectors observed about half the staff.

LE said the inspectors told her: "We can't believe how articulate and confident the young people are."

She said: "They were beginning to think they couldn't find excellence in learning and teaching in a school, and were so glad to have found it."

Family Poetry Workshops

GT has emailed an invitation to parents/carers for sessions in Jan and Feb for pupils to attend with their families.

Additional Support Needs Parent Support Group

AM said only 3-4 parents/carers attended the first meeting in November despite 12 sign-ups, which was "disappointing". A coffee morning to be arranged in February. GM expressed interest in attending to represent the Parent Council.

Road safety letter

GM to send it to councillors.

Other business

LE confirmed the School Fund (where money raised by the school goes, for use on trips etc) had charitable status, in answer to a question from KG on behalf of Gillian Grant, who is involved in applying for grants for the school on behalf of the Parent Council.

LE said she had submitted a "change request" to school facilities maintenance firm Amey for proposed changes to the playground, including at the west end of the school, for PE use. She said a "reflection area" was being funded by a parent near the old Hyndland Hut. The school's botany club is also planning a "nature place" which would include lifting an area of tarmac to create a grass/soil/bird box/greenhouse area.

Next meeting: Tuesday 18 March, 6.30pm in the School Library.