

Hyndland Secondary School Parent Council

Meeting Wednesday 23 October 2024, in School Library, 6.30pm

Present: Alex McTier (chair, AM), Graham McFarlane (GM, vice chair), joint secretaries Kirsty Greaves and Alastair Dalton-Hopwood, Rhona Ferguson (treasurer, RF)

Parents/carers: Allison Emery, Frances Poet, Bev Sumpter, Catherine Lyst, Alison Guthrie, Stephen McCabe, Sarah O'Neil, Rose Eaton,

Apologies: Gillian Grant

Year split among attendees: S1 3, S2 1, S3 2, S4 1, S5 5, S6 1.

School staff: Louise Edgerton (LE, headteacher), Jenny Nolan (JN, principal teacher PE), Wendy Black, (Lomond House pastoral care teacher), Gavin Tulloch (English teacher and Parent Council liaison)

Playground tour

LE and JN led a tour focusing on the area west of Airlie Building, bordering Airlie Street. The lower part was this week marked out as a basketball court with possible other use of the adjacent disused undercroft and former janitor's house.

JN said she wanted to create a new PE area because of lack of space for multiple classes.

She showed an example of a shipping container-style unit for equipment storage and sports activities that opens lengthways, at Newbattle High School in Dalkeith. Possible cost £2-10,000

LE to meet school facilities management to discuss, and would also ask about use/possible removal of garage in main part of playground to create more space.

Minutes of last meeting on 4 September 2024 approved by GM and seconded by RF.

Matters Arising

Salads/fruit in Fuel Zone: LE said it would be discussed with Fuel Zone operator Cordia at pupil leadership meeting.

Pupils without Fuel Zone cards: LE said pupils just had to give their name to Cordia staff.

Discussion of Fuel Zone/catering to be a possible future agenda item

Cameras for art department: LE to ask for specifics of what's required

New mobile phone policy

LE said the new policy that phones must be put in school bags during classes had been broadly welcomed with positive feedback from pupils and teachers. However, some parents had heard examples of the policy not being implemented inconsistently, highlighting the need for continued efforts to ensure it was consistently enforced.

Parent Council presence at parents' evenings

GM has leaflets. Volunteers sought for S3 eve on 30 Oct and S1 on 14 Nov.

Awards ceremony

RF asked whether only those who achieved straight A grades should be celebrated at the event and suggested a discussion around what constituted success.

A focus group of parents was suggested. This could also be a future agenda item for discussion.

Road safety

GM to update draft letter to send to the city council, councillors and MSPs calling for an urgent review of road safety measures on Clarence Drive following an S1 being hit by a car, including repainted 20mph markings on the road surface.

Other business

New group for parents with pupils with additional support needs (c400 at school) to be established at a meeting on 21 Nov

Next meeting

Thursday 16 January, 6.30pm online via Microsoft Teams.

Possible discussion topic: Follow-up presentation on the Teenage Brain. AT to arrange online link.