

Hyndland Secondary School Parent Council

Meeting Tuesday 19 March 2024

in School Library, 6.30-8pm

Present: Alison Guthrie (AG, chair), Alastair Dalton-Hopwood (ADH, joint secretary), Rhona Ferguson (RF, treasurer).

Louise Edgerton (LE, headteacher), Gavin Tulloch (GT, acting principal English teacher and Parent Council liaison)

Parents/carers: Graham McFarlane (GM), Ian Marland (IM), Bev Sumpter (BS), Alex McTier (AM), Collette Farrell (CF).

Apologies: Steve McCabe (vice-chair), Kirsty Greaves (joint secretary), Gillian Grant, Rose Eaton.

Anti-racism:

A group of S2 and S4s gave a presentation about anti-racism. They have formed a group whose plans include:

an anti-racism charter that includes simplified elements of the Glasgow City Council charter.

exhibition/events planned for Cultural Diversity Awareness Month in October.

a culture map displayed near the school entrance and music base showing pupils' origins.

assemblies on acceptable and unacceptable language, such as racist comments between friends considered as "banter". LE said there had been several incidents.

GT followed with a presentation about diversity in English teaching, highlighting that the subject matter and content of books is as important as the gender, sexual orientation and racial diversity of authors. The Scottish Qualifications Authority is holding a consultation on set texts. GT also pointed to evidence that reading increased empathy, which could help tackle racism.

Clara from S2 talked about plans to include themes from the film Hidden Figures in every subject in the new timetable from June, such as a 200m race in PE with water balloons held between legs to symbolise a full bladder - reflecting the distance black female Nasa staff had to walk to the loo.

ADH asked the young people for ideas for increasing the diversity of the Parent Council. They suggested increasing awareness of the body, and making it approachable and accessible for all parents.

Minutes of last meeting on 18 January approved by AG and seconded by IM.

Matters arising:

Kingsborough Sanctuary sale: LE had no update on buyer so future use by the school remains unclear. Next school event scheduled for the venue is an awards ceremony in September.

Language teachers: ADH read reply to Parent Council letter from city council education director Douglas Hutchison which said it had provided teaching cover "which unfortunately was not sustained". LE thanked the PC for sending the letter, which had led to the school being offered supply teachers, who did not remain. The languages teacher who had been off long-term has now returned so the department is fully staffed again.

Head Teacher's report:

Airlie Theatre new sound system has been installed. LE thanked PC for providing half the £6,000 cost.

School won an Education Scotland gold in CyberFirst for its promotion of cyber security

60 P4s took part in the latest Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)'s Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) survey which "measures their reading, mathematics and science knowledge and skills to meet real-life challenges".

School attendance 93 per cent (up on last year)

Finances:

RF said bank account signatories had been sorted. Balance £5,136 before below payments.

£500 cheque for award ceremony display screens given to LE.

£3,000 cheque for Airlie Theatre sound system to be given to LE, who said remaining £3,000 had been paid by the city council.

Gillian Grant sent a note that she had submitted grant applications for various things. It was agreed she be asked to contact RF and LE to update them.

Other business:

AM asked whether city council budget cuts would affect the school. LE said it would be 0.6 teachers down from its 72.6 total but this was likely to be absorbed by existing staff's working patterns.

Concern was raised at the city council proposing to stop funding school coordinators for MCR Pathways, which provides mentoring for young people. Letter to be sent to the director of education.

ADH asked about windows being left open in the school at weekends, leaving classrooms cold on Monday mornings. LE will raise it with facilities manager.

Next meeting:

Wednesday 24 April at 6.30pm in School Library. Agenda will include a presentation on encouraging reading.