

Hyndland Secondary School Parent Council

Meeting Wednesday 24 April 2024

in School Library, 6.30-8pm

Present: Alison Guthrie (AG, chair), Steve McCabe (SM, vice-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), Bev Sumpter (BS), Alex McTier (AM), Gillian Grant (GG),

Apologies: Kirsty Greaves (joint secretary).

Minutes of last meeting on 24 April: approval proposed by SM and seconded by RF. Several people said they had not received the minutes so ADH said he would check with Kirsty Greaves.

Head Teacher's Report

P7 placements: c150 refusals

GF volunteered to be on judging panel for YPI (Youth and Philanthropy Initiative Scotland) charities' showcase project for S3s.

S1-3 Sports Day on 29 May: House t-shirts to be provided (60 per house) and parents invited.

Mobile phones: S1-3 policy introduced following pilot in some departments, where phones must be left turned off in young people's bags at front/back of class during lessons. S4-6 to follow after exams.

Summer Fair on 20 June, 3.30-5pm, followed by Wider Achievement Ceremony.

Equality and Equity Toolkit presentation - practical ideas for engaging more and different families (GT)

60 languages are spoken by young people at the school, who come from 14 primary schools ($\frac{2}{3}$ + from the four core schools: Hyndland, Broomhill, Thornwood, Whiteinch))

Future Parent Council meetings: RF said meetings had low attendance, were not very diverse and the name Parent Council sounded very formal: "We need to be more coffee shop than office". Attendance higher when meetings were held online during Covid.

LE said Parent Council could not use school's Microsoft Teams or internet, so meetings would have to use a Parent Council member's account. GG said it was difficult to follow meetings online or request to contribute, and the connection could go down. BS suggested meetings on specific topics. ADH suggested mobile phones as a topic.

AM suggested a school project on how to solicit parents' views. BS suggested a daytime Parent Council meeting. GT suggested Parent Council members could act as contacts for parents who did not wish to come to meetings so their views could be aired. GM suggested year group reps on the Parent Council. AM suggested a different venue such as Hyndland Bowling Club as it might be less daunting than parents having to find their own way to the library.

Matters arising:

Draft letter expressing concern about MCR Pathways coordinators funding cut: ADH to add info from LE and send letter. GM to circulate to local councillors.

Kingsborough Sanctuary sale: No update. ADH to try to find out more. GM has info on other possible church venues.

GG funding applications for the school on behalf of the Parent Council: AG to contact her ahead of the next meeting.

AGM and office holders for election to be advertised via email and social media ahead of meeting. AG will not be standing for chair.

Next meeting:

AGM on Thursday 6 June at 6.30pm in School Library. Agenda to include discussion of potential topics (such as mobile phones) for future meetings, and update from GG on the progress of grant applications she is making on behalf of the Parent Council.