

Ellon Academy Parent Council - AGM	Minutes of Forum & Meeting	30-Sep-2019 Meeting No 48
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Attendees:	Mrs P Buchan Mr F McLaughlin Mr P McCabe Karen Gray Dave McCulloch Claire Cohan Nick Topping Simon Ruddy Jackie Berry Anouk Kahanov	Rector DHT DHT Chair Treasurer Secretary Angela Blanchard Helen Wilson Wendy Jones Isobel Davidson (Council)
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1 Meet and Greet

Introductions made.

2, Family Learning

Mr McLachlan updated the PC on the recent cluster wide Family Learning initiative and encouraged attendance at the launch evening on Wednesday 9th October at 7pm, Ellon Academy.

3. Chairperson's Report

a. Working with the school on improvements to the school car park

A parental survey was created which received a very good response (162 responses over 5 days) and showed how strongly the feelings are with relation to the issues with the school car park particularly during pick up and drop off times. In summary, due to work carried out by the parent council we have achieved improved signage and painting of new markings on the road in the car park. Cones have been deployed to prevent parking behind the car parking spaces which has greatly improved the flow in the car park. There are still issues however there is no budget for further changes to be made around signage. Parents as always are encouraged to be patient and courteous when using the car park particularly around drop-off and pickup times and follow the rules around reverse parking and the one way system. Full car park report provided separately.

b. Crowd funding for Ice Clearing equipment

We unfortunately didn't gain enough support to allow us to purchase the snow clearing equipment that was originally desired by the janitors. However, the janitorial team has produced a list of equipment that the money raised can be spent on which will be helpful in their job of keeping the campus safe for our children during cold weather. The money that was raised along with the potential for some additional funds that we may have available in the PC reserves could be used to purchase this equipment (if agreed by the parent council). The school car parks are now on the council's high priority list for treatment which was not the case previously. Car parks were much improved last winter due to this.

c Eco

Parents had raised concerns about the use of disposable containers etc in the school canteen. Some parents expressed an interest in being involved with the Environment Impact Team. We have a couple of representatives that are working with the school, Angela Blanchard gave us a quick update on all the

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great work that the school are doing in this area including various Terra Cycle schemes, composting of kitchen waste and waste from the staff centre, recycling of printer cartridges and much more. The pupil members of the environment impact team will hopefully be presenting to us at our next meeting. It was noted also that some pupils bring their own containers to the restaurant at the school rather than using disposable which is excellent.

d Sports Pitches

There have been ongoing conversations between the school, Aberdeenshire council and the parent council regarding the school sports pitches. Due to pressure from the school and PC there was an independent report commissioned which the PC has not seen that highlighted major failings in the laying of the sports fields. We were assured that work was to have started on the remediation of the pitches during the summer of this year but unfortunately nothing has happened. The latest news is that they are to start next spring, however we have heard this before and don't hold out much hope, it's still caught up in litigation between Aberdeenshire council and the construction company. There is still work to do supporting the school in this area.

e. Communications

We have been trying to work with the school to improve communications throughout the year a couple of things that have been working on are:

Noticeboard

A noticeboard has been created for parental engagement in the street area which a parent (Jane Bradford) worked on along with DHT Mr McLachlan. Although the parent council hasn't yet been posting much up on the notice board it's there for us to use as needed.

Website

The school website is out of date due to issues with getting it updated. These issues have hopefully now been resolved, Mrs Buchan has confirmed the office staff have now been trained to upload items to the website. It's a work in progress though and the school is aware that there is lots still to be done.

We have had a PC tab created on the school website which is still to be populated.

4 Rector's Report

- a Nat 5 results on attaining 5+ Nat 5's - up 1% on last year. Nat 5 results are the best over the past six years. Analysis for next year using S5 data hoping to achieve 45+% of 3 Highers or more.
- b. Attainment review - focus on strengths and areas for improvement.
- c. ICT network upgrade will allow the current two discrete systems used by pupils and staff to be migrated over to one all-encompassing system which is based on Windows 10. Advised that although old system will be running in the background, it is up to the pupils to populate their own folder/files into the new system. This will begin w/c 7/10/19. Rector to issue email to parents re timetable. Due to go live on 28th October.
- d. Staffing - In Technology, Mr Wyllie has joined us and Mrs Winterbottom who is one of our Art teachers (and also qualified in Technology) is helping out. Maternity Cover filled for Modern Languages.

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- e. There is a requirement for Ellon Academy to save £87,000 over the next year from our staffing budget due to Council budget reductions. This will be challenging.

5 Treasurer's Report

D McCullough reported that there have been difficulties in getting the signatories to access the bank account. This matter has now been resolved and can now access account and waiting on a statement as to balance of account. Access has been denied for a few years but hopefully monies can be accessible in line with PC procedures.

6 Appointment of Office Bearers

Chairperson - Nick Topping - Proposed Helen Wilson, Seconded Claire Cohan
 Vice Chair - D McCulloch - Proposed Nick Topping, Seconded Angela Blanchard
 Treasurer - Angela Blanchard - Proposed Helen Wilson, Seconded Karen Gray
 Secretary - Claire Cohan has agreed to stay in this position.

7 PC Constitution Update

Updated Constitution has been agreed in principle, however, changes to be discussed and agreed at a later date. Data Protection policy is on council website

8 AOB

- a. Question asked about re-marking for exams. Mr McCabe to address this issue.
- b. School awards - question was asked about recognition for sporting achievements out with the normal EASA affiliated sports - there are pupils who achieve great sporting success out with EASA but the school does not recognise these in their Sports Colours awards. Rector advised that wider discussion would be needed with staff and pupils.
- c. A question was also raised with regard to the creative arts awards and their timing, they are awarded too late in the year to be added to pupil's personal statements, rector explained that the reason for this was due to the timing of the prelims & exams and it may be problematic to change.

Both sets of awards have a long tradition at the school and the faculties are rightly very proud of them. It would require consultation before it would be possible to make any changes.

9 Next Meeting

Next Meeting arranged for Monday, 7 October 2019 at 7pm in EAPC Staff Room