

Ellon Academy School Parent Council Meeting – 14th June 2023

Attendees:

In person:

Angela Stott (Chair), Ruth Leuchars (Treasurer), Pauline Buchan (Rector) Sarah Warne (Committee Member), Melanie Wilson (DHT), Marina Lukash (parent) & Jan Connell (parent).

Zoom:

Sarah McPherson (parent), Vicky Wynn (parent), Roslynn Keating (parent), Gordon Burgess (parent), Fiona Callan (parent), Emma Dawson (parent) & Moira Geddes (parent).

Apologies: Karen Gray (Committee Member), Kim Finlayson (Committee Member) & Nick Topping (Committee Member)

Minutes of last meeting:

Action Point: Adding Nick & Kim as signatories to the bank account.

- RL has had confirmation of this.
- **Action Point: Need to check if Nick & Kim have had any confirmation on their side.**

Action Point:

- Spending money in the account. Mrs Buchan is to liaise with the SLT and it was asked if it may be an idea to involve the children in identifying items.
- Not yet done. Waiting for confirmation about school budget from Aberdeenshire Council. PB thanked Parent Council for offer of funds.
- **Action Point: Will revisit once budgets are confirmed.**

Action Point: Share rationale behind study leave with parents.

- Will be study leave in Jan. Can be in and book in the library if they wish.

Action point: PB to discuss a further survey with Ms Booth regarding virtual/in-person parents' evenings. No longer required – see below.

Action Point: PB to enquire about portion sizes at the canteen.

- Set portion sizes. No differentiation between ages.

Action Point: PB to follow up with Mr Cowie about college courses.

- Limited how much info can be shared as college courses are more subject to change.
- Could share what has been done the previous session to help mitigate this.

Agenda for meeting:

1. **Treasurer report.**
2. **Rector update.**
3. **SQA Exams**

Issue: Nat 5 Admin paper. National issue.

Review with invigilators has happened. Very positive.

4. S3 Build Your Future Week

Plan to go to RGU for the day did not happen due to changes of staff at RGU

Still a meaningful week – local business links.

RGU Hub school status ongoing. New member of staff.

Successful despite challenging circumstances: planning for next year has begun.

Queries about funding for trips. Emphasis on planning to include wider range of budgets.

Discussion about possibility of parent council fund being used to subsidise these trips to reduce the cost of most expensive packages/targeted support.

5. Parents' evenings

Will be mixed for another year. Staff feedback negated need for parent survey.

Pastoral parents' evening & curricular parents' evening are now separate to give more opportunity for feedback.

Reporting times have also been reviewed to give more of a spread when information is shared.

Senior Phase curricular evening planned for September to also support families to support their children.

Pros & cons to any booking system.

Suggestion to schedule appointments being released later in the day. SW voiced concern that this may inadvertently exclude other groups.

MW shared demand on places in the school puts further pressure on time available for staff to meet parents.

Google Guardian Summary also highlighted as an example of how to keep in touch.

6. AOCB

Blazers form will be resent to S6 learners. There will be an opportunity for learners to try garments on before ordering to confirm sizing.

S1 Year Group photos: parent voiced suggestion that every S1 year group could get a year group photo so looking back on this is part of S6.

Action Point: PB will check if this can be done.

Weds 28th June Parent Evening – P7 parents. 7pm.

Action Point: Parent Council to be invited.

Rector newsletter being sent to new S1 parents the remainder of term to support transition.

7. Date of next meeting

Weds 13th Sept.