

PEEBLES HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL/PTA



Parent Council Meeting
Monday, 7th November 2016 at 7.00pm
in the meeting room in the new Sports Facility

MINUTES

Present:

Campbell Wilson, Justin Noon, Margaret Hogg, Michael Pryor, Eleanor Fairbairn, Lorraine Sykes, Vanessa Rice, Glenda Barton, Monica Shaw and Mirren McLeod.

Welcome:

Margaret Hogg welcomed everybody, especially Justin Noon who was at the meeting to report on Tracking and Monitoring.

Previous Minutes:

The minutes were accepted with the following amendment – under Future Agenda Items, languages – PHS to look at language clubs and ask modern language staff for their views on the appropriacy of language courses.

Updates from previous minutes:

Tommy Davidson has purchased the spider phone at a cost of £400. The cost is being split between the school and Parent Council. It will be up and running at the next meeting.

PTA Fundraiser position has been filled by Lisa Houston.

E-Mail List:

Margaret Hogg is to draft an e-mail to the current Parent Council e-mail cohort advising they will be removed from the list unless they regularly attend meetings. It is felt the new newsletter being distributed is a better way to keep parents informed.

SPTC Insurance:

The Scottish Parent Teacher Council (SPTC) have advised that the insurance that is purchased by the SBC for Parent Councils has changed. As the premiums have increased the SBC have decided to only pay for the basic cover. It was agreed to pay the £13 extra to give the Parent Council and its groups better cover. Margaret Hogg to organise payment.

Update on Parents Priorities raised at previous meeting:

Flexible Pathways: Campbell Wilson suggested a survey monkey of all S3 to S6 students to seek their opinions of the current curriculum structure. There will be a sub-group to look at possible questions for the survey as well as flexible pathways for students as they progress through school. The subgroup will consist of parents and teachers. Michael Pryor, Monica Shaw, Margaret Hogg and Glenda Barton volunteered to be on the sub-group.

Modern Languages: Campbell Wilson is to talk to modern language staff for their views on the appropriacy of language courses.

Young Engineers: Lego has been started.

Canteen: There is a new version of parent pay in place for primary school children that allows them to preselect their meals on-line. Lorraine Sykes to talk to Andrea Hall about how we can extend this for secondary students to pre-choose Grab and Go meals from home and pilot this in 2017. Campbell Wilson has asked the catering company to supply another young scot card machine.

Study Rooms: There are currently a few options for students. During January and February the Assembly Hall will also be available. CW to speak directly to a concerned parent about this.

Uniform: Campbell Wilson tabled a newsletter about School Uniform – see attached. Parent Council to circulate and get feedback.

Homework Assignments: Senior phase students will generally always have homework assignments over holidays. The younger phase teachers have been told not to set homework over holidays. S3 parents evening feedback was good regarding homework. Parents are still look for consistency in homework from S1-S3. Homework is to be on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Communication: This is being dealt with by a sub-group and bulletin. They are looking for an e-mail address to use. Campbell Wilson said they can use peebleshighschool@icloud.com.

Update on SIP Priorities:

Poverty Proofing:

Michael Pryor had a discussion with Jeremy Lee focusing on information gathering ie; who is charged for what and who is entitled for free meals/uniforms. A letter is going out to parents to encourage them to access what they are entitled to. They are also going to give information to P7 parents.

Careers Event:

This is happening tomorrow. This is seen as part of a programme to help students transition to work when they leave school. They will also look at interview skills and CV's in the future. Volunteers will get a pack when they arrive at the careers event to encourage them to continue to be involved with the school. Steven Lynch (Developing Scotland's Young Workforce, DSYW) is coming to the Careers Evening and is coming to talk to the Parent Council in December.

Personal Support:

A letter has been sent out by Donna Moretta. The staff working group want to survey staff in November, students in March and parents in May.

Tracking and Monitoring:

Justin Noon reported on the pilot they have been running. Every year group has had a settling-in report sent out. The next stage is for each year group to have a parents night (some have already happened) then 2 further progress reports (3 more for Seniors). The extra reporting means that the final report will not be in as much depth as it was previously since teachers require more time to produce the extra reports. The school will post on the PHS website what the levels and grades mean.

Interventions include a wide variety of approaches and work is being done to standardize this information for parents. The student will have a discussion with their teacher on what the intervention will be.

There was some discussion on whether an intervention log which students would keep would be helpful so other teachers and parents could see what has been agreed. Parents also need to know who to contact to ask about what the interventions are.

For the senior phase where it is hard to predict the grades they are expected to achieve in their Highers due to content knowledge, the new report is based on whether they are on or off track based on the course content covered so far rather than predicting a grade at the end of the year.

Pastoral staff are more involved with interventions this year. Looking forward, they will be reviewing the changes and looking at improvements.

Rector's Report:

Staffing:

Andrea Hall has a promotion to a new position with DSYW. Ruth Fry is also leaving. He wished to thank them both for their contribution to the school.

School Review

SBC is doing a review of PHS from 21st to 24th November. They are looking for a parent focus group and also will be interviewing students from all year groups. They will also need a Parent Council member – Glenda Barton volunteered. The school was last reviewed in 2012.

Parent Groups:

PTA

The PTA have a fundraising table at the Bridge Christmas Market. They will be providing refreshments at the school concert and are looking for help at the school show. The PTA will be fundraising at the spring concert and Christmas concert in 2017. They are looking for extra support from parents for fundraising in 2017.

PHS200

The balance is £4,764.20. They will have leaflets at the Careers Event to encourage more members.

Learning Support

They have fundraised £4,000 in their first year. They have bought Lego, a Projector and done a refurbishment of the Learning Support area. Their next fundraising events are a coffee morning and Xmas fayre.

PC Chair Meeting

Tommy Davidson went to this meeting and sent notes of the meeting to the Parent Council. Governance is to be put on the agenda for the next meeting. There is an on-line questionnaire with 17 questions. Margaret Hogg to get feedback for next meeting.

Other Agenda Items

The following Agenda items will be carried forward to a future meeting:

- Mid-year donations
- Pony Club donation request

Any Other Business:

Karen Gordon (Becky's mother), would like to thank PHS who have been fantastic and appreciated the help that especially Mrs Johnson has been doing to help Becky with her lessons, namely using an i-pad from her hospital bed.

Meeting finished at 9.30pm

Next meeting is Tuesday, 6th December 2016