

Forrester High School Parent Council

Meeting Tuesday 7th November 2017, 7pm

Minutes

Present: Andrew Lamont (Chair), Carol Swan (Secretary), Douglas Tully, Bill Buchanan, , Jackie Barn, Stephen Rafferty (Head Teacher), Hugh Brown (Vice-Chair), Ali Mitchell, Inessa Mishcina, John MacPhie, Kate MacPhie, Marianne Sandison

1. **Welcome:** Meeting commenced at 19:00. Andrew welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.
2. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from; Gill Napier, Emma Spence, Carol Munro
3. **Minutes of previous meeting.** Proposed by Andrew Lamont, Seconded by Jackie Barn.
4. **Matters arising:** CCWP – Andrew contacted various councillors regarding the removal of the parent vote from the Education committee. He was informed by Ian Perry , Chair of Education Department that this was a political decision and there was not any room for a change of decision. Also of note was the removal of two teachers from the committee as well. The committee agreed that the chair would send an email expressing our disappointment at the decision.

It was also agreed that we would invite our local Councillors and MSPs to our January meeting. Carol Swan to invite councillors and Marianne Sandison to invite MSP's.

5. **Mrs MacPhie** attended the meeting to inform the pc of the current projects she is involved in. YPL is an S3 citywide initiative that the pupils are working on. The pupils choose a local charity and present to a judging panel their findings. The final is on 16th November and Andrew has been asked to be part of the judging panel.
Mrs MacPhie also updated the committee on Epraise points which is a S1-S3 reward initiative. Mrs MacPhie asked the pc to consider donating some funds to support the scheme and the committee decided to award £400-£500. Carol also offered to donate tea/coffee for some upcoming events and Mrs MacPhie said that donations of pens and pencils/juice and biscuits would always be useful.
6. **Correspondence** – Andrew asked Head Teacher regarding thoughts on named person programme that was being introduced and would it create extra demands on the management team's time. HT reported that he believed various protocols were being looked at to manage this.

7. Mr MacPhie Raising Attainment

Mr MacPhie, having been appointed in his new position with a remit for raising attainment, presented to the group a summary of what he had been doing since taking up his new role. His report is attached. Key points include;

- * Launch of the Forrester High School App which was a first for any school in Edinburgh. Mr MacPhie is hoping that this will be a quick and easy way to instantly connect with parents and encourage engagement.
- * The challenges that come from having 32% of Forrester pupils in SIMD index 1-3

*Explained the barriers to learning that the children have displayed that are not always linked to deprivation.

*Marginal Gains

* Key priorities of the post to include Parental engagement, pupil aspiration and praise, learning and teaching



PEF Parent council.pptm

8. Head Teachers Report

Mr Rafferty gave the committee a report on current staffing levels and vacancies. Carol Swan raised a concern regarding an S3 Biology class who has not had a dedicated teacher for some time. Mr Rafferty replied that unfortunately the recent interview had not resulted in an appointment and so the post was going out for re-advertising.

Mr Rafferty also reported on the School Improvement Plan, Events and Visits and upcoming events. We also received a copy of the school's health and wellbeing policy for reference.

Mr Rafferty reported on attainment. The results are attached. Varied outcomes with some very positive reporting on employment secured.



Attainment 2017.pdf

9. Accounts

Andrew reported that we had received this year's funding from CEC and our current balance is £4271.55

10. AOCB

Mr Rafferty reported that he had spoken with Anna Burnett's family regarding the progress of the memorial area within the school. Andrew offered financial support for the project if required.

Jackie Barn reported that she had held a meeting with Mr Rafferty and Carrick Knowe Head Teacher regarding further developing the transition programme between primaries and Forrester. Jackie had also contacted all the feeder school primaries parent councils to try and build relationships and improve communication for the transition period.

Mr Rafferty reported that there had been a recent S1 parent night and there had been very positive feedback from the event with around a 70% turnout.

11. Andrew closed the meeting at 9.30 and acknowledged that future agendas may have to be trimmed to try and avoid such late finishes.