

# Forrester High School Parent Council

Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018, 7pm

## Minutes

**Present:** Hugh Brown (Chair), Carol Swan (Secretary), Douglas Tully, Jackie Barn, Stephen Rafferty (Head Teacher), Marianne Sandison, Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP

1. **Welcome:** Meeting commenced at 19:00. Hugh welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.
2. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from; Gill Napier, Carol Munro
3. **Minutes of previous meeting.** Proposed by Jackie Barn, Seconded Douglas Tully
4. **New Chairperson; Hugh** was nominated by Douglas Tully and Jackie Barn seconded. Marianne was nominated as vice chairperson by Jackie Barn and seconded by Carol Swan
5. **Matters arising:** Hugh reported that the proposed planning application for school extension had not been submitted to council planning team.
6. **Correspondence;** Hugh informed the group that Lorraine Sutherland had resigned from Parent Council and asked that an email of thanks be sent. Stephen reported that Carol Munro had suffered from a period of ill health and sent her apologies. Agreed to send a get well card
7. **Transition – Jackie Barn**

Jackie has taken on the task of improving communication with parents with regard to transition from primary to FHS. A leaflet has been produced by the parent council with information from parents that will be uploaded to website and distributed to feeder primaries.

It was also agreed that the first meeting of the new school year be an invitation to head teachers of feeder primaries and parent council chairs to include them in discussions on how transition went and how we can improve in the future.

Jackie then asked if our next project could be assisting the school in changes to the website. Stephen informed the committee that Mr MacPhie was looking at rebranding and working on the actual ethos of school values so could we wait until that was completed.

PC also needs new members and will have to decide on a way forward for this.

Hugh is going to enquire about accessing our email account.

Douglas suggested that all cluster parent council were invited to a suitable parent council meeting to strengthen relationships and improve communication regarding transition and other relevant issues.

### 8. Report by Alex Cole-Hamilton

- **ACH reported thanked the PC for inviting him**
- **Spoke about the proposed housing developments in the West of Edinburgh and said he only supported the developments that were supporting new medical practices and looking at traffic infrastructure**

- **Reported on anti-social behaviour and measures to control**
- **Informed PC that uncertainty regarding Brexit and referendum were still making it a difficult political climate**
- **He stated in his opinion Education Scotland was no longer independent from government**

**Douglas asked ACH what we could do on a very small local level to effect change when we are very concerned regarding teacher shortages and cuts to education funding. ACH replies by saying SNP government had approved £28m of cuts which was always going to make things challenging. When encouraged he said the options open to us was contacting our local councillors and our MSP.. He also informed the group that he was currently lobbying for improved access to mental health support for young people.**

## **9. Head Teacher's Report**

Mr Rafferty gave the committee a report on current staffing levels and vacancies.

This report will be attached to the final minutes once it is received from HT. Key points include;

- Staffing Update, Inclusive practice review which had highlighted areas for development that Mr Rafferty and his management team were working on
- PEF update, gave an update on the work being done by the PEF team
- Proposed visits and events were covered

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## **10. AOCB**

Hugh informed committee that he had attended the area locality meeting – small group but main topic of discussion was pupils of QHS having to teach themselves IT subject due to lack of teachers.

Hugh also brought up the subject of the recent school reports which varied in quality. Missing reports for certain subjects and excessive copy and paste had made the quality of the reports disappointing. Mr Rafferty agreed that they could be better and told the PC that the infrastructure made certain aspects of the reporting difficult. He said it was on the school improvement plan and would be looked at. The matter should be minuted to be reviewed in 6 months to see if any improvements have been made.

PC needs to update bank as a matter of urgency with regard to new signatories. Hugh to find out who has bank statements and contact the treasurer to get annual report done before the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting is 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 7pm which is the AGM.