

MINUTES 22/11/2011

Attending (all above)

Apologies Norman Smith

New Committee - Mel said 'Thank you' to everyone for coming and explained he was standing down and so a new committee needed to be elected. The new committee stands as;

Chair = Elizabeth Preston (nominated by Debbie Andrews and seconded by Patti Fraser)

Vice Chair = Brian Henderson (nominated by Elizabeth and seconded by Debbie)

Treasurer = Mark Chapman (nominated by Lorraine and seconded by Elizabeth)

Secretary = Debbie Andrews (nominated by Elizabeth and seconded by

Linda Evans Leaving - Mel confirmed that he had sought Linda's permission before sending an e-mail informing the Parent Council of Linda's successful interview and her leaving Mintlaw Academy.

Minutes from last meeting - Minutes were distributed - agreed to be correct by Brian and seconded by Elizabeth - Agnes Gough pointed out her name is spelt wrong again and apologies were offered.

Attendance and Contacts - Elizabeth put round a sheet for all to put e-mail contacts on. Everyone agreed for these to be on a list of contacts to be used for the Parent Council

Gareth Oldham, Presentation - Gareth gave a presentation how the Academy had performed against the National county

averages in the last set of exams (summer 2011) - the outcome was that the academy had performed well with all years being around the averages for both National and county. Outstanding individual performances were highlighted and an overview of the strategies currently being used at the Academy to raise attainment was provided.

Contacting Parents - Debbie asked for this to be on the agenda as there were concerns that the Parent Council were not making enough effort to keep parents included in discussions or seek their thoughts etc and that this had resulted in the lack of interest from parents at the AGM. Others agreed and it was discussed that we should work to change this. Concerns were raised from Agnes that the web site was very out of date and no minutes available, Brian offered to put minutes on the web site for us once they were approved. Lorraine raised concerns that we were not meeting objectives for contact with parents and so not meeting our constitution, this was agreed with Debbie who pointed out we were not meeting $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ of our constitution as we were making no effort to consult or inform our Parent Forum and this was why she'd raised the matter

PTA Fashion Show - the fashion show on November 18th was a great success raising £992.36 profit. Everyone who attended agreed it was a great evening and everyone had enjoyed the evening. The MegaDraw has raised £2620 so far this year less prizes of £130 each month.

Dragons Den - after being postponed from June Dragons Den will be held on December 8th. 9 bids have been received from pupils who will make their presentations on the night. The Parent Council had put £500 for prizes and this will be added to £300 donated from Gillanders. The RoundTable (?) were also approached and offered to provide 2 Draaons and maybe

a donation. Doreen Duncan has agreed to also be a Dragon and it was suggested the Parent Council should be represented, Norman Morrow and Lorraine Reid offered to join the other Dragons. As we only have £800 and 8 bids for £300 and a 9th for £250 it was suggested not all bids would get funding or that some bids could not take part and only 6 should go on to the evening. While some agreed with this it was felt strongly that all pupils should take part and receive a share of the prizes. There was discussion as some felt that not everyone could get but the idea of Dragons Den was for Parent Council to engage with pupils and the community to give pupils a positive experience and that it was the planning the experience of planning and presenting on the night should be backed up with some reward. Lorraine offered to approach local businesses for support. It was agreed that anyone wanting to discuss this after the meeting should stay to view the bids (Norman, Debbie, Mel, Anna and Lorraine stayed behind to do this)

Rector's Report - Linda gave information of work taking place in school for Improvement Plans. She was pleased to report that feedback about pupils behaviour was good and that there have been very positive comments from places pupils have visited that they are a pleasure to work with and a credit to the academy. She explained work taking place on Numeracy Group, Transition from P7 to S1, Health and Wellbeing etc along with work to support pupils as part of a multi-agency team. She discussed the improvement plan, exam information and home/school communication leaflets were sent home, further work done due to Curriculum of Excellence being incorporated, self evaluation at teacher and department level

is taking place, and several initiatives aimed at specific years or groups of children are being incorporated.

AOB - Elizabeth raised concerns that for the 2nd meeting in a row we had no pupil representation despite her daughters and many other pupils, volunteering in school. Linda said it was because S6 pupils had not attended the meeting about this. Debbie asked if the pupils had to be S6 as a mix of pupils would be good but Linda said it was for Prefects. We did stress our wish to have pupils involved with our meetings and activities. Elizabeth also reported concerns from a member of the public that pupils were getting off school buses in the countryside with no lighting in dark black outfits. Linda explained that while she could set a school uniform the coat was not part of it and she could not ask for reflective clothing to be worn. However parents did ask could it not be advised in a newsletter.

We decided we needed more contact with parents and pupils and that would be the priority of our next meeting - Elizabeth asked if everyone could come with ways/ideas to make these contacts.

Next meeting - January 17th 2012 7pm