

Mintlaw Academy Parent Council



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 22nd November

Present: Anna Gillanders (Chair), Kathleen Ramsay (Minutes), Cllr Norman Smith, Linda Duthie, Gerry McCluskey, Carol McHugh, Yvonne Beagrie, Elizabeth Preston, Geoff McAdam, Karen Pollard

Apologies Cllr Jim Ingram, Frances Burnett, Vicky Fowlie

1	Welcome Introductions and guest Donna Wilson welcomed to the meeting to talk about parental engagement	
2	Minutes of Previous Meeting Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as read, proposed by Elizabeth Preston and seconded by Anna Gillanders	
3	Chairperson's Report Interviews have now been completed and Chair is delighted to welcome Mrs Linda Duthie to Mintlaw Academy. The Parent Conference was held last week. AG commented on the fantastic displays however felt it was a poor turnout from parents. However, overall a successful event. GMcC advised improving parent engagement was something which will be worked on.	
4	Treasurer's Report Received £489.60 from Aberdeenshire Council Balance now £867.91 New signatories are in place	
5	Head Teacher's Report Mrs Duthie is delighted to take up post of Head Teacher at Mintlaw Academy, feels well supported by staff and parents during her first 6 weeks and feels pupils are on board too. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Careers Fair</i> Very impressive set up. Youngsters attended year by year which worked well. Pupils were given questionnaires to have which helped them feel less awkward when approaching stands. Staff pulled out all the stops to make the event a success.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Parent Conference</i> Suggestion to improve attendance, perhaps combine Parent Conference and Careers Fair in the future – to be discussed at a later stage • <i>Staffing</i> There are some staff vacancies in social subjects and art. • <i>Transport</i> Costs for sports teams is an issue, to be discussed in the future • <i>Future Parent Council Meetings</i> It was suggested that staff from the different departments could attend Parent Council meetings to give a short presentation or talk. This invitation could also be extended to senior pupils. A 10 minute Q&A session could be included – this could perhaps attract more parents to the meetings. 	
5	<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Funding</i> In short, there is not a lot of spare money therefore it will be a challenging time ahead not just for Mintlaw Academy but for all schools. Mrs Duthie has some suggestions to help address this which will be discussed at future meetings. • <i>Parental Engagement</i> Donna Wilson is a seconded officer who works with schools to help them increase parental involvement in school education. She works with primary and secondary schools to understand how to overcome barriers and how to work together to improve the current situation. Donna stated that assumptions are made and there is a culture in which parents don't have a role in secondary school. She suggests looking at the days, times and locations of PC meetings, perhaps bringing the meetings into the community or into the primary schools. Maybe more can be done during the pupils' transition from primary to secondary school. Suggestions were to have parents visit the secondary school, more involvement with senior pupils, teachers meeting the new pupils and parents pop in sessions. Communication with the wider parent forum could be looked at. What is the best way to communicate? Should we use social media? Email? Text alerts? Twitter pages? Donna said she would provide a list of fundraising ideas to the PTA. 	
	<p>Date of next meeting: Tuesday 24th January 2017 @ 6.30pm</p>	