

Mintlaw Academy Parent Council

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 25th October

Present: Anna Gillanders (Chair), Kathleen Ramsay (Minutes), Cllr Norman Smith, Cllr Jim Ingram, Linda Duthie, Gerry McCluskey, Carole McHugh, Vicky Fowlie, Yvonne Beagrie, Elizabeth Preston, Geoff McAdam

Apologies None

1	Welcome A Gillanders opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. New Acting Head Teacher, Mrs. Linda Duthie was introduced to the Parent Council.	
2	Minutes of Previous Meeting Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as read, proposed by Y Beagrie and seconded by V Fowlie	
3	Parent Engagement Evening <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mr. McCluskey discussed the forthcoming "Parent Engagement Evening." This will be held on Thursday 17th November from 6.30pm until 9pm. There will be 3 workshops and 1 engagement session. Parent Council and PTA will have a stand each. Details of workshops will be made available on the school website.	
4	Head Teacher's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mrs. Duthie introduced herself to Parent Council and gave a brief overview of her professional (and some personal) history. This information will be shared with pupils and parents in a letter which will be sent out next week. Copy of letter given to Parent Council.Mrs. Duthie has enjoyed her first few days although they have been busy. Her first impression of the school is extremely positive finding pupils very courteous and polite. Since arriving she has spent time around the school meeting with the pupils and teachers and is very impressed with attainment figures commenting on the impressive results released in August. When asking the senior pupils what the school's strengths were, they replied, "the staff," and when she asked the staff what the school's strengths were, they replied, "the pupils." This is encouraging.In a previous school Mrs. Duthie advised a principal teacher was invited to every 2nd Parent Council meeting to give a presentation, this was really successful and something which could be introduced to Mintlaw Academy meetings.	

5	<p>Head Teacher Vacancy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Duthie acknowledged the anxieties around Mr. Horberry leaving Mintlaw Academy advising the lack of communication was not intentional but was mainly due to the speed of the vacancy arising. She advised interviews would be held in the next few weeks. Cllr Ingram reassured Mrs. Duthie it was the speed of Mr. Horberry's departure which has caused the anxiety as opposed to any other reason stating he feels the situation was handled poorly. E Preston was quite concerned that the Parent Council didn't know about the dates of the interviews, K Ramsay agreed. Parent Council agreed A Gillanders should take the communications issue forward by putting our concerns in writing to Woodhill House. This will not change Mintlaw Academy's situation but will hopefully prevent this happening to other schools in the future Dates for interviews: 2nd Nov – Longleet interviews 9th Nov – Meeting at school to discuss candidates 11th Nov – School tour for candidates going for shortleet interviews 18th Nov – Shortleet interviews E Preston advised that Parent Council members are usually part of the interview panel. Mr. McCluskey added the longleet interviews were attended by professionals only 	AG
6	<p>Staff Vacancies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. McCluskey advised that the school currently had vacancies in Maths and English. In comparison to other schools, Mintlaw Academy is very well off for staff with only a few vacancies. Staff being seconded to other posts is a compliment to the school however it was understood the Parent Council do not want to lose any more staff. 	
7	<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Ingram added he is impressed by today's youngsters and recognized there were a lot of opportunities available to them in Mintlaw Academy. C McHugh advised her twilight class had 40 children in attendance which is an increase on previous years. Great news! E Preston thought there was an increase in litter around the school. Parent Council were advised Mr. Oldham regularly walked to The Square and back to monitor this. As the school is in the region of 40 years old Mr. Horberry sought funding to enable updates to be made. Cllr Ingram added it is important any new Head Teacher can continue this push as the school has areas needing improvement. It was recognized maybe a creative approach is also required as there is not endless sums of money available. 	
	<p>Date of next meeting: Tuesday 22nd November 2016 @ 7pm</p>	