



Mintlaw Academy
Minutes of Parent Council Skype AGM

Wednesday 8th September 2021

Present:

V Fowlie (chair), K Osterberg (sec), L Duthie (HT), Cllr Ingram, A Reid (DHT), Cllr Smith, E Preston, E-J Whitehead (DHT), J Mannion, B Collie, A Hynd (PT), L Newbould.

1. Welcome:

VF opened the meeting at 6.01 and welcomed everyone.

2. Apologies:

D Willox, N Elrick, Cllr Simpson, Y Beagrie, P McClean

3. Minutes of last AGM held 16/9/2020:

no corrections

Propose - VF

Second - JM

4. Chairperson's Annual Report:

VF said her report would be very short as very little has taken place over the last year. She has attended a few Skype meetings with Laurence Findlay, Christine McLennan. This is her last year as chair and it has been sad owing to the effects of covid. She thanked the committee, the secretary, the school and the staff's engagement over the past year.

5. Treasurer's Annual Report:

No transactions since last meeting. Balance is £2032.31. Y Beagrie will be standing down as Treasurer at this meeting.

6. Head Teacher's Annual Report:

LD thanked VF for her work as chair over the last years.

I. Covid Recovery

- Numbers/Numbers in School- Numbers in the Shire and across Scotland are high. At time of meeting only 2 pupils and no staff.
- Staff Absences- mostly due to taking time off for tests
- Testing Programme- going well, good uptake from pupils.
- Flu Vaccination Programme-delayed due to distribution issues, scheduled for October.
- Burns 21/22- no prom type activities being discussed until after Christmas break as numbers too high.

II. School Roll 21/22- currently around 870. Ideal number is 900 so pleased with numbers. Attendance is high. School Dress Code, pupils wearing uniform on the whole. All looking very smart.

III. Staffing:

New Staff

Mrs Colette Fraser (PT ASL)- complex post, settling in very well.

Ms N McLeod (PE/H&W)

Mr Raymond Stirling (Maths)

Ms Jenna Buchan (Business Ed)

Ms Samantha Robertson (Drama)

A Reid (12 month 0.4 DHT (PEF Covid Recovery 21/22)

Query from M Lee on where PEF funding is spent 21/22. Alan Reid PT Guidance is now in DHT post funded by PEF. The most vulnerable/challenging group already have a lot of assistance in place and so the next group target group identified as needing support will have Mr Reid working with them. This consists of 15-20 pupils who were surveyed as to support they need. PEF funding is funding this post.

Probationer in Physics has left so the vacancy is being advertised.

IV. Accommodation

The school is tight owing to high numbers of pupils. Home Ec upgrade is on track. Covid has increased the cost as there are now additional requirements for covid mitigation. It should be completed after summer holidays 2022. There was a HE mtg 02/09

V. Excelerate Update.

Excelerate is a programme to help pupils make the right next steps beyond school. It aims to build skills supporting articulating of skills, how to interview, identify their needs and goals. Oracy Leads Appointed: K Pye / K Urquhart (Mtg with WFI 10/09)

VI. SQA Update

EJW said there wasn't much to report yet. The school had a small number of appeals which have now all gone back to the SQA. They will be finalised in October. The SQA will be setting exams in the 21/22 session unless there are new covid restrictions introduced. M Lee asked if this was for all ages. EJW replied that it was for S4/5/6. The school will be following all the proposed changes throughout the year. Only the current S6 have actually sat exams (pre-lims) for S4 and S5 it will be their first time.

VII. Reporting / Virtual Parents' Evenings 21/22

Although some schools in the shire did hold virtual parents' evenings we as a school decided not to owing to difficulties using a platform that all could access. We focused on termly tracking reports. There is a Working Time Agreement with the teachers' unions and these proposed evenings require training would have increased teachers' working hours beyond what is permitted. Staff have created a plan to hold virtual parents' evenings with S4/5/6 pupils only. S1/2/3 will continue with termly tracking reports. JM asked if we will have one main report or multiple tracking reports. LD replied that one extended report is a huge amount of work for staff and most schools are phasing it out. It is often impersonal and parents said it didn't contain enough information. Tracking reports allow a more frequent, detailed format. M Lee asked what contingency there is for families that are technologically challenged. LD said it is still in the early planning phase and this will be looked at. S5/6 will be held first in early November.

VIII. Traffic / Signage around Campus: Issue and Next Steps

Learning Estates came out last Wednesday (01/09) and completed an initial assessment. A safe path/route from the buses to the school is to be made. The existing path from the school to MACBI is to be made clearer with lighting possibly being improved. KO suggested that the speed hump could be made into a zebra crossing. EP agreed with this. LD said when the recommendations come back she will let us know and query it if it isn't robust enough. KO asked Cllr Smith about the ongoing zebra crossing on the main

road. He replied that the council can't decide where best to put it but there will be a public consultation before it is decided but this won't be until next year.

IX. In-Person / Online Learning (Query EP)

EP stated that she was concerned that the skills we had all developed during lockdown would be lost if the online aspect of learning e.g. Teams, Glow etc wasn't continued in some aspect. LD said staff protected by professional association and cannot teach in class and online at the same time. Lockdown teaching can't be replicated once back in school building. LD agreed with EP but said we need a compromise. Referred to A Hynd who said he had put a lot of this in place and didn't want to lose that skill-set either. Each faculty currently looking at best way to share with pupils via Teams. Not as much as during lockdown but numerous staff are engaging. EP said some much better than others and felt it needed to be flagged. *(Discussion around next steps for online learning part of a wider "Build Back Better" dialogue at PT Strategy Day 6 October.)*

X. School Blazers (Query ML)

ML asked why does the school have blazers as part of the upper years and prefect uniforms. Currently a blazer costs £46.50 to buy, £20 year to rent. There is a hardship fund to rent a blazer enabling no fee to be paid at all. LD said the children themselves are very keen on them. Blazers were part of an agreement between staff, parents and pupils 5 years ago. LD said so far ML is the only person to request a re-visit to the school dress code. JM said it was her daughter and her classmates that said they wanted a better school uniform and had approached the Head about it. There was a competition amongst pupils and the winning design was implemented. There is currently a £150 grant for uniforms. It was generally felt that the uniform gives a sense of belonging and pride. EP said that there was an immediate improvement in behaviour by school children in the town once the uniform was introduced. EJW said she was a guidance teacher at the time and the children wanted the blazers. As a parent she strongly supports the blazers as they give a strong sense of identity. VF agreed. ML thanked LD very much for all the clarity and said he too supports the uniform. EP said she was concerned that some teachers were not allowing children to remove their blazers in the classroom, even on very hot days or wear a coat over them outside. VF and ML said they had heard this too. Both LD and EJW said they had not heard this. LD said she would investigate and clarify by email. *(Email sent to all staff to clarify post PC mtg.)*

XI. School Meals (Query ML)

ML had asked about the cost of school meals versus free school meal allowance. What can a child actually buy with the money? He said his concern was pupils had said the cost

of school meals had increased but the allowance had not. What happens if free school meal allowance money is not used?

LD explained that school meals are not under the auspices of the Head Teacher but are under the control of the Scottish Government. The canteen is run as a separate business and is not connected to the school budgets. LD had visited the canteen to see what was actually on offer. The free school meal allowance is currently £1.50 for breakfast and morning break, £2.85 for lunch. She said there were numerous items that were within that budget. Unused money cannot be banked or rolled over but goes back to the government. ML thanked LD for all the information.

VF thanked LD for all the information in her very lengthy report.

7. Committee Resigns

Everyone on the committee resigned.

8. Nomination of Office Bearers

Role	Name	Propose	Second
CHAIR	Emma-Jane Whitehead	VF	JM
TREASURER	Debbie Willox	VF	EP
SECRETARY	Karen Osterberg	VF	EP

9. AOCB

None

LD thanked VF very much.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting was meant to be held immediately after this AGM but most people left the meeting before it could be started. Therefore the meeting was rescheduled for

Wednesday November 17th 6pm

11. Close

VF closed the 2021 AGM at 7.24pm.