

Mintlaw Academy
Minutes of Parent Council Meeting
Wednesday, 23 November 2022

Present: Jennifer Byiers, Diane Pert, Lynne Pirie, Marianne Brooks, Lorna Leslie, Doug Leslie, Paula Nicol, Ross Nicol, Pamela McLean, Vicky Burnett, Vicky Fowlie, Bruce Collie, Lisa Burnett, Karen Osterberg (Chair), Linda Duthie (Head Teacher)

Apologies: Councillor Powell, Councillor Crowson, Beth Preston, Rebecca Perry, Joyce Mannion, Nikki Elrick

Welcome & Minutes

Meeting began 1800

Introductions and attendance

Minutes from last meeting were approved. 1st VF second DP

Chairperson's report

Welcome to the new large attendees. Happy to be back in person. Discussion of league tables (see meeting minutes from prior meetings 5-Oct-2022)

At the previous meeting no-one agreed to be secretary or treasurer. Prior to this meeting the chair had been contacted by a new member offering to take on the role of Secretary. Chair nominates Jennifer Byiers for Secretary, seconded PMcL

Marianne Brooks volunteers to take on the role of Treasurer. Chair nominates Marianne Brooks for Treasurer, seconded JB.

Treasurer's Report

The Chair had been into the PC's branch in Peterhead and discovered that the signatories for the account were very out of date- both no longer on the PC. She has a new form to be signed by herself and MB as the new signatories. An up to date balance wasn't available as KO isn't a signatory yet and the bank would not give her one. Internet banking was discussed, MB to look at this.

Parent Council Treasurer's documents handed over to MB. PTA legacy documents handed to LD for storage/archive. It was discussed and agreed that old PTA paperwork that was not required to be kept could be destroyed by KO. MB will get an up to date balance for the next meeting.

Head Teacher's Report

There is a range of vacancies for the first time in 6 years in Technology (practical, not business). There are also open positions in Modern Languagesⁱ (1) and English (2). There are viable candidates for the latter 2 and should have no issues filling them.

Huts are gone. The clean-up will be happen in Spring. Solar panels are being installed. Home Ec kitchens are very new and modern resulting in nearby areas looking drab. Paint work will be updated in Spring to better blend with the new décor.

Survey resulted in identifying significant challenges after Covid. Teachers, parents and students were surveyed. Staff surveys were not positive to the last time they were surveyed in 2019. Four (4) key areas were identified as having dropped as follows:

1) Feeling Valued: Things are done the same way, but people have changed. During Covid the administration tried to take action to keep people engaged. Having returned to in person school there is not as much interaction. New staff don't know each other as they did pre-Covid. The administration is working to support and encourage self-care and staff interaction.

2) School Well Led: Recent staffing changes with former co-head teacher leaving. 2 head teachers were previously split 4/1 and moved to 3/2 this year. This has caused some confusion and frustration, so they are moving back to 4/1

3) Communications: Too many comms coming from too many directions and can be confusing and stressful. Administration is currently collecting feedback from teachers to make improvements.

4) Pupil Behaviour: Generally, the majority of kids are respectful and behave appropriately. But kids have changed and times have changed. They are having consistent and clear conversations with kids around expectations and working with teachers on providing techniques for classroom management.

School Inspection: School Inspection taking place over 3.5 days. More information on the process is available from [Education Scotland](#). They are looking forward to "telling our story." While there is some natural anxiety about any review they are prepared to put their best foot forward, showcase what we are good at and acknowledge the work we need to do.

Head Teacher requested feedback from Council on engagement. There was discussion on how to address feedback from surveys. If names were required would responses be as forthcoming?

Of the 900 students, only 109 surveys were returned. Discussion around getting more parent and community engagement. Thoughts on parent in person meetings. Also the challenges around one-on-one parent/teacher meetings.

Parent's Council Logo

Council agreed on new logo which will be added to documents and on Facebook

No other business was discussed

Date of Next Meeting

Chair thanked attendees and scheduled next meeting for Wednesday, 1st Feb

Meeting concluded 1711 and a tour of the Home Ec Department was offered and accepted by a number of members.

ⁱ Update on 2 December 2022, a Modern Languages Teacher was appointed.