

Mintlaw Academy
Minutes of Parent Council Meeting
Wednesday 7^h June 2023

(Abbreviated minutes taken by Chair Karen Osterberg, previously posted on our Facebook page. Secretary's minutes unavailable)

This year we have lots of members leaving as they have no children left at the school. Some of these parents have been on the committee for a really long time and Mrs Duthie would like to thank them for all their valued contributions over the years.

The next year sees a bumper crop of S5's and 6's which the school is delighted to see. At the moment our school roll for this coming year will be around 885 pupils.

Health and Well-being Week went really well, our second after covid. This year we had Therapets, a bouncy castle and stalls including face painting to add to the event. Parents expressed thanks for the emotional well-being aspect of the H&W/B week being covered too. A question was asked why Sport's Day landed in the middle of the exams and it was explained that the Health and Well-being faculties work load and staff availability was a deciding factor when to schedule it.

The exam sessions also went very smoothly with any minor hiccups quickly dealt with. Mrs Duthie thanked Mr Hynd's excellent job organising this and Collette Fraser for the support and organisation for pupils with additional needs.

S4 Transition went smoothly with the exception of the Parents Portal publishing the timetables without the school's consent before they were ready! Thankfully that was spotted by eagle eyed parents quite quickly and we all received a message from the school.

Vaping at school. This is absolutely everywhere in the news just now. The Parent Council contacted all our MSPs who are all in agreement that something needs to be done about disposable vapes. We are also hoping to liaise with Aberdeenshire Council for a more local impact.

There is great concern about pupils overusing their phones. Recent events have brought attention to phone usage causing issues on school trips, negatively influencing behaviour in and out of class and impacting on mental health. This is not just our school but everywhere. Looking to next session, the school would like to work with parents/carers and the Parent Council to help improve this for everyone.

Our Treasurer Marianne is going to be looking at grants to boost funding for our technology department.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 20th September. This will be our AGM and is a great time to come and join us, everyone is welcome. We've been asked to e-mail out our meeting dates so the school will put out an e-mail when they are coming up.

Date of next meeting AGM September 20th 2023