

Mintlaw Academy
Minutes of Parent Council combined AGM and termly meeting
Wednesday
02 Sep 2023

Present: Karen Osterberg, Marianne Brooks, Jennifer Byiers, Bruce Collie, Annjanette Hazlehurst, Victoria Brown, Evieline Campbell, Diane Pert, Dawn Cruikshanks, Emma Towler, Daniel Shaw, Cllr Anne Simpson, Lynne Pirie, Rebecca Stoker, Paula Nicol, Dmitri Mosso, Anda Farapanova, Natalia Cojocar, Sharon Noble

1. **Welcome-** Meeting began 1800. The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming.
2. **Apologies:** Councillor Crowson
3. **Minutes** from last AGM were approved. 1st VB second BC
4. **Chairperson's report (AGM)**

Hello and welcome to our AGM for the year 2022-23. This past year we have been really pleased to see so many new members joining us giving the PC a very healthy number. A big thank you to our secretary Jenny and treasurer Marianne for all their hard work over the last year. It has been great to hold every meeting this year in person, back to normal!

I would like to thank our school teaching staff for their incredible dedication and unending hard work every year; the pupil support staff who make a difference to everyone they work with; the admin staff without whom everything would grind to a halt; the janitorial staff who no-one can do without and everyone's favourites- the canteen staff. A special thank you to the head teachers, deputies and principal teachers who have successfully steered us through covid and out the other side.

Over the past year we have been involved with in-person sessions to help develop School Vision, School Leaver profile and 3 Year cycle, P7 transition, HMIE inspection and S3 Choice of Course. We have had our own logo created by Nicola Robertson our PT Creative Arts.

Vaping has been an issue at our school as it has everywhere and the PC contacted MSP's and councillors asking for a ban on disposable vapes and were pleased to be informed that Aberdeenshire council recently voted, along with nearly all other councils in Scotland, to ban their sale within Aberdeenshire. As chair I've also attended a few online meetings along with the chairs of other parent councils. A final thank you to some very long standing members who left at the end of last term Vicky Fowlie, Elizabeth Preston, Nikki Elrick and Joyce Mannion.

5. Treasurers Report

02 December 2022	£ 2,032.31	Opening balance
28 December 2022	-£ 50.00	Wellbeing gift to teachers during inspection
24 January 2023	£ 491.10	Aberdeenshire Council's annual contribution
14 March 2023	-£ 2,000.00	Tree of Knowledge
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20 September 2023	£ 473.41	Current balance

Met with Ali Hynd to motion the establishment of a charity to support the ASA clubs and use of the technology department.

6. Head Teacher's Report

Mrs Noble gave the report.

See attachments "Parent Council HT Report 20.09.23" and "Parent Council HT Update 20.09.23"

7. Committee resigns

8. Nominations for Office bearers were asked for. No one stood for vice-chair.

Post	Name	Propose	Second
Chair	Karen Osterberg	MB	JB
Vice Chair	-	-	-
Treasurer	Marianne Brookes	JB	KO
Secretary	Annjanette Hazelhurst	MB	JB

9. Any other business

Discussion around ideas to share information with parents. Back to school night opportunities. A parent attending raised issue of mobile phone overuse, discussed opportunities of creating an event open to everyone. Chair to communicate with Christine McLennan on this. Parent raised q's on discipline policy. SN to update

10. Date of Next Meeting Chair thanked attendees and scheduled next meeting for Wednesday, 29 November. Meeting closed at 1940

Parent Council – Headteacher Report 20th September 2023

Staffing

- Mrs Duthie making speedy recovery following hip replacement, potential date for return 2.10.23 to be confirmed.
- 11 new staff (some permanent some fixed term) started in post June – Aug giving us healthy staffing picture at the start of term
- June timetable change
 - L Gardner (Science / PT Flexible Provision)
 - A Fraser (HE)
 - E Ritchie (HE)
 - J Baird (English)
 - F Campbell (Drama/ Acting PT 0.2)
- Aug
 - L Gray (English)
 - M MacLennan (English)
 - S Lawson (Tech)
 - S More (Languages)
 - A Bond (Social Subjects)
 - G Noble (ASN)
- Sept – Appointment to maternity cover for PE
- Vacancies – currently 0.8 Art advertised

School Roll

- September = 883, at capacity
- We remain closed to Out of Zone

Building Updates

- Large areas of ground floor painted
- Additional CCTV fitted
- New Art furniture to meet fire regulations

Calendar events since last meeting 7 June

Induction for S4-6 (6-7 June)

- Huge effort in planning for three year groups by Mr Hynd, DYW Leadership Group and partners
 - Parent Council funding for Tree of knowledge supported induction
 - S4 (New)
 - Day 1 Tree of Knowledge, SDS, study skills, college input
 - Day 2 Health and wellbeing activities
 - S5
 - Day 1 Tree of Knowledge “Laugh in the face of exams” + inserts from SDS, RGU, College + Study Skills, Team Building in PE
 - Day 2 cancelled due to staffing
 - S6
 - Day 1 Country Park Inn – study skills/team building, Head Prefect presentations
 - Day 2 Tree of Knowledge + Aberdeen University trip

Appointment of our Senior School Executive Team

- Process – application, presentation at S6 Induction, interview
- So far the group have organised new prefects, taken assembly, been involved in Synergy (visit to PD Academy to discuss leadership opportunities with other pupils).

Virtual Awards 2023 (15 June)

- YouTube 986 views – format continues to work with wider reach than traditional format
- Virtual Awards followed by in school year group assemblies 27 June to issue prizes and certificates

P7 Transition Days (28-30 June)

- Outdoor event cancelled due to waterlogged pitch
- 3 days following S1 timetable went well – plan similar format this session

Several Trips since last meeting

- Munich (July) S4-6 – huge success, hope to run again this session
- World Challenge (July), Mozambique – 21 pupils, 3 weeks, involved in various community projects, spent number days in mountains trekking, safari – life changing experience
- This term number subject field trips taken place already – Social Subjects Aberdeen University, field trips Aden, Science Ballater/Lock Muick, Shell Energy Girls Offshore Europe

2022-23 Results

Context –session 22- 23

- Insight data released today so further analysis will take place over coming weeks
- Mixed picture – significant disruption to learning last session, industrial action, weather closures
- Figures based on S4 roll, Mintlaw has high number leavers end of S4 which impacts S5/6 figure – however post Covid there is an increase numbers returning.
- S4 – 5+ Level 5 = 47%
 - 2022 = 65% much stronger cohort,
 - 2023 significant number of youngsters who were disengaged from school (school refusers), on reduced timetables for variety reasons. Range strategies used, often other agencies involved, PT Flexible Provision x 2 appointed May/June. These pupils not attending school have impacted %
- S5 – 3+ Level 6 = 39%
 - 2022 = 40%
 - Figure in line with previous year but lower than expected based on cohorts S4 results. Number pupils achieved As in S4 but not transferred to S5, work ethic of some required improvement. Aspiration of some pupils supported by parents an area we continue to work on. Earlier interventions being put in place to identify pupils who need to put in more effort across several subjects.
- S6 – 5+ Level 6 = 28%
 - 2022 = 21%
 - 2023 strategies to improve results have had impact
- Meetings have taken place within faculties to review results, followed by meeting involving FH, DHT and HT. Actions and areas for improvement identified are incorporated into Faculty Improvement plans.
- Study support available in run up to prelim and final exam diet
- S5 Faculty study incorporated into S5 timetable

- Earlier interventions will identify pupils who need additional input around study skills.

3 Year Improvement Cycle 2023-26

- This session marks start new improvement cycle – work for this started in February
- Feeding into this
 1. Feb inset How Good is Our School, Quality Indicator Evaluation
 2. May Stakeholder Event
 3. HMIE Feedback
 4. Excelerate – embarking on year 3
- Focus on 5 QIs over next 3 years (1.3, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2 mandatory + 2.2 Curriculum)
- Documentation available website soon
- Year 1 priorities
 1. **Vision and values**
 - Aim for this to be at heart everything we do – focus on how we embedded this
 2. **L&T**
 - Active learning – HMIE feedback
 - Excelerate Oracy Training – skills listening and talking
 - Excelerate PBL Training – project based learning
 - Community connected learning
 - #Aspiration S5/6
 3. **Positive Relationships – Celebrating Success**
 - Positive Behaviour Policy in process of being updated – leadership group focusing on this
 - Need to celebrate success more
 - Facebook page to be launched soon
 4. **Curriculum Review**
 - Hayward Review if recommendations adopted will mean significant changes for Senior Phase
 5. **Skills progression**
 - Introduction of our School Leaver Profile – the skills and attributes a Mintlaw Academy leaver should have

New School Vision (& Values)

- Process started term 3 inset day to create a new school vision
- Follow up voluntary lunchtime session
- Statements gathered narrowed down to 4
- School vote – “Every pupil leaves Mintlaw Academy a better version of themselves, ready to succeed in all aspects of life”
- June pupil and staff survey to look at initial use and current use of values – identify ways to embed this