

Minutes of Parent Council meeting: Wednesday 18th 6pm - 18/01/17

Date and time: 18/01/17 06:00 pm to: 18/01/17 07:00 pm

Present: grant abbot, cruachan.bb@gmail.com, angelagrants38@yahoo.com, lornac273@gmail.com, lynne.bell114@gmail.com, ssmclauchlin@yahoo.co.uk, no_nam3_go@yahoo.com, dmacdonald2@sky.com, tracey.bredski@westlothian.org.uk, tracybrownscott@yahoo.com, karen_smillie@yahoo.co.uk, gillian.morgan@nhs.net

CC: amanda.heatherill@westlothian.org.uk

Location: conference room

Access meeting at: <http://app.meetingking.com/meetings/194821>

Topics

1. Welcome and introductions; L. Carson

Lorna introduced herself and expressed her hopes for the coming year and how she sees the parent council running. The rest of the group introduced themselves.

2. Vision and priorities for Parent Council discussion for next session: L.Carson

It was brought up that the connection between the school and the parents/family home is important.

Lorna asked the group how they can help the parents in the wider community gain information about what is happening within the school.

Grant explained that he will bring school information to the meetings.

3. HT Report: National Improvement Framework & pupil assessment update: G.Abbot

GA explained that the Government to achieve all they can no matter which area they are in. The focus is that the child remains at the centre of all we do. There are 4 National priorities: Improve attainment, closing the attainment gap between most and least disadvantaged children. Improvement in children and young peoples health and wellbeing and Improvement in sustained school leaver destinations for all young people. Parental involvement is one of the main drivers that will help the school to achieve the priorities.

GA explained how important the parent council is in encouraging parental engagement and will welcome any ideas that will help with this.

GA explained what we already do as a school, eg, Parent surveys.

GA handed out the "Family Learning" booklet and explained what information can be found in it.

Task GA asked for the group to read through the leaflet and think of new ways to encourage parental engagement.

GA explained how we gave information to parents for the pupils who will be studying 5 highers



On Monday we have a moving into the senior phase forum, this will run in a similar way to the 5 higher night was run

LC said that some similar groups could help the parent council talk and engage with the parents from the wider community.

4. Discussion on possible parental engagement opportunities : L.Carson

LC said that some similar groups to the 5 higher forums could help the parent council talk and engage with the parents from the wider community.

It was suggested that it might help to let the parents know about the parent council whilst the children are still in P7.

It was asked what the school does for the children who are clearly suffering from the symptoms of poverty, GA explained how the school does this and how the other agencies work with the school to give the children the best chance. GA explained that he doesn't always want to have to call parents re bad behaviour. GA would like to contact parents for positive behaviour choices.

It was suggested that the school should be more proactive rather than reactive for possible issues with children, GA encouraged the parents to come forward to the school with anything that is concerning them regarding their children.

Parents will come in to see their childrens work and to see good efforts within the school.

It was suggested that the parent council could be a middle person for parents communicating with the school if this suits some parents better.

GA explained how the positive behaviour policy works. It was explained that what he is looking for is 3 positive referrals to 1 negative.

GA how all stages of the merit system works.

LC asked GA which forum would be best to start with, GA suggested a group for parents to come and chat to other parents who would value a group to talk about how their child are getting on with their education, get ideas on different ways to help the children.

It was discussed that not all parents who don't attend school events aren't interested in their child's education. Some parents work shifts, long hours etc

Is there anything that we can do to help parents make parents night/events. What is the best way to gain this information from the parents.

LC talked about what the group need to think about. What types of groups they would like to have, where they would like to have them and how they would work,

Task The parent council will put a letter together that the school would send out through the school, The house heads could contact some parents who would like to or benefit attending.

5. AOCB



Registration, GA explained how this used to work and how it works now, (Tutor time). Tutor time is where the children get information, this information is now emailed to them using their glow. There is now very few items that need to be raised in Tutor time. GA is now looking at new ways of using tutor time. It may be more useful to have a longer P2. GA explained how this change would impact on 4th year, meaning they would now have RE/PSE on a fortnightly basis.

Staffing, Anna-Louise Coyle has now left, interviews will be held next week.

Staffing is now being looked at for next year,

Prelims are ongoing over the next few weeks, study support isn't being used as much as the school would like. This will be looked at over the next few weeks.

National 5 courses - Unit assessments for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher will be removed and will no longer be a requirement to achieve an overall course award. Course assessment will therefore be strengthened. The changes will be implemented for National 5 in the 2017/18 session, for Higher in the 2018/19 session, and for Advanced Higher in the 2019/20.

GA explained how this will impact on the course work and the school. GA will keep everyone updated as the school will need to closely at these implications.

GA went through some things that the children have been up to. The London trip, sky academy.

Parental funding - £400, this will be used to purchase some virtual reality goggles. 3 teachers initially to trial them. Board games for a social area and some initial finance to get the debate club up and running.

6. Next meeting

Wednesday 22nd March Conference Room 6pm

Next Meeting

Meeting title: [Parent council meeting: wednesday 22nd 6.30pm \(new time\)](#)
Date and time: 22/03/17 06:30 pm to: 16/03/17 07:30 pm
Location: Conference Room (please note slightly later start, there is an S6 pupil involved in a Expressive Arts Baccalaureate performance at 6pm. Very welcome to see this first. Will be very good!

Task Summary

New Tasks

- Task** GA asked for the group to read through the leaflet and think of new ways to encourage parental engagement.
- Task** The parent council will put a letter together that the school would send out through the school, The house heads could contact some parents who would like to or benefit attending.

