



Minutes of 30th Stranraer Academy Parent Council Meeting Thursday 15th April 2010

PRESENT: -

Parent Members: Lesley McColm, Neale McQuistin, James McQuistin, John Crawford
Student Rep: True Anderson
Head Teacher: Norman Dawson
Teacher Rep: Helen-Marie Bradley
Clerk: Lorraine Heron
Council Member: Councillor I Dick

1.	WELCOME & APOLOGIES
	Chairman Neale McQuistin opened the meeting. Apologies were put forward on behalf of Richard Little, Robert Downie, Jo Cochrane, Fiona Spicer, Emma Sutherland, Christine Fowles, Nicola Kane, Rod Baxter, Fiona McColm and Susan Boyd.
2.	MINUTES OF LAST MEETING
	The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March stated that Kay Armitage had seconded the amended Feb minutes. Kay has contacted the clerk and advised that this was not the case. The amended minutes of the Feb meeting were in fact seconded by James McQuistin. With this amendment the minutes of the March meeting were approved by Lesley McColm and seconded by James McQuistin.
3.	MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING
	Item 10 – New Building Open Day – It is hoped to have the open day during May. Mr Dawson asked if the Parent Council could possibly organise Tea/Coffee etc, and maybe the pupils on the Student council could show visitors around. A date should be arranged in the near future.
4.	STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT
	<p>Re-cycling – True Anderson advised the members that the student council still had issues regarding recycling. Amey have provided new facilities for cardboard and paper but the bins in the classrooms are not being emptied and are now overflowing. Neale McQuistin asked if it would be possible for the Student Council to have a visit from someone in the Council to discuss re-cycling and give the students some information and advice. Councillor Dick agreed to try and arrange a visit by Alistair Speedie from Planning and Environment Services. Helen-marie Bradley also suggested he could possibly attend an assembly to give information to the pupils. Councillor Dick advised that a DVD is available which gives information on the facilities at the Councils Ecodeco plant. He will find out if it is possible to have the DVD converted to a format which would allow the school to put it on their website. Action I Dick</p> <p>Uniform – True asked if it would be possible to include Grey in the uniform colours. Mr Dawson said he didn't see any problem with this. It was agreed that the Pupil Council would letter the Parent Council and it would be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>Canteen – The student council suggested that 'Italian' be considered for an theme day in the canteen with inclusion of vegetarian options</p> <p>School Buses – With SWestrans announcing the withdrawal of school buses for children within a 3 mile radius of the school in July, True asked if there was anything we could do to assist the pupils affected. The Student Council have already arranged a meeting with a representative of the Council to come and discuss this. They feel that the withdrawal of this service could increase the number of pupils arriving late. There would be an increase in the number of cars coming to the school which is already very busy. There would be pupils walking in the dark and in poor weather. Mr Dawson asked if there was any possibility of the country buses picking some children en-route and charging for this. Ian Dick agreed to find out if this was possible and also if something could perhaps be arranged with Community Transport. Action I Dick</p>
5.	HEAD TEACHERS REPORT
	<p>Mr Dawson reported on the following:</p> <p>Staffing/Absence – Sandra Dutton has now returned full time. Callum Scott is still off in Biology with a broken ankle but Linzi McCallum is back from maternity leave. It is likely that we will be getting a new technical teacher. When Bernice Bryant retires in the summer we will not be allowed to appoint another DHT. We will, however, be able to appoint another Principal Teacher on a temporary basis. Cathy Stevenson will retire in the summer.</p> <p>Exclusions – There have been 8 exclusions: 2 for verbal abuse, 1 for behaviour on the school bus, 4 for persistent disobedience and 1 for assault on another pupil.</p> <p>PPP – The official opening took place on 24th March. A date will be arranged next week for an open evening for parents and the community.</p> <p>Rhins Education Trust – As soon as everything is finalised the Parent Council will be asked for nominees for the trust.</p> <p>Showcase – This took place on 23rd May and was very successful with an audience of 300. Thanks to Stuart Binnie, Peter Baird and all involved in the organising.</p> <p>Canteen – With the better weather some pupils have been using the outside benches. This has made the canteen seem less busy.</p>

	<p>S1 Allocation – Feedback from Mary Thomson and Ann Appleford will now take place on Friday 23rd April. John McVie will also be in attendance.</p> <p>Curriculum – Pupil option choices are now in. In most cases choices are as expected. However, more have chosen Home Economics & Business Studies in S5/6 than usual. We will be able to run the necessary classes but it means tweaking time allocations to S1/2. The Activities afternoons for S1 have been abandoned as too many activities were depending on a specific teacher being available and that couldn't be guaranteed. The 15 minute registration period will stay the same.</p> <p>Easter Study – Numbers varied from 186 pupils attending on Monday to 90 on Thursday (although fewer subjects were offered on Thurs). These are similar numbers to last year. However, we may not be able to offer Easter school next year.</p> <p>Edinburgh Zoo Bus – Over half of the S1 visited the bus from Edinburgh Zoo which spent a day at Stranraer Academy.</p> <p>Science Week – A series of events are organised in the school (and outwith) for week beginning Tuesday 4th May. These involve S1 pupils as well as Primary 7.</p> <p>Royal Society of Edinburgh – Staff from the Royal Society of Edinburgh are organising a series of events, staged over a year, in Dumfries & Galloway. Stranraer will be part of this programme and will have events for school pupils during the day and for adults in the evening. There will be a Christmas lecture in the school in December which RSE hope will be a high profile event.</p> <p>School Show – It has been agreed to hold a show in December, probably in the week of 13-17 December. The chosen show is Hairspray. Auditions will take place in June but sing and dance sessions will begin in April. It is reasonably expensive to put on a show. In order to keep the ticket prices down there will be programme and we are looking for sponsorship/adverts. If anyone has any contact who could help in this regard please get in touch?</p> <p>Mock Election – Over 100 S3 & 100 S1 pupils will take part in a mock election the Friday before the real election.</p>
6.	TEACHERS REPORT
	Helen-marie Bradley advised that the Primary 7 teachers of all the feeder schools have once again been invited to come with their P7 pupils and teach within the school and so far has had a positive response.
7.	TREASURERS REPORT
	Balances are as follows: Treasurers Account - £400.83, Fundraising Account - £2043.22
8.	CORRESPONDANCE
	A letter has been received from the Parent Inclusion Network (PIN) offering a course to help parents cope with difficult behaviour. The courses will be held during May and June. It was agreed that Lorraine would ask if Stranraer Library could display the information poster and also contact PIN and advise them that they would be welcome to attend one of our meetings. Action L Heron
9.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
	<p>Dux board/Display Cabinet - Mr Dawson advised that the Dux Board has become damaged over the years with dampness. He asked if the Parent Council would be able to assist with the cost of repair before it is displayed in the new building. This was agreed and Neale reminded the members the Parent Council had agreed to purchase a new Display Cabinet for the new school.</p> <p>MUGA – Councillor Dick advised that the recommendation for the school to receive the full size MUGA would now be put before the Resources Committee on Tuesday. He was delighted to see the school being recommended as clearly the 1100 pupils at the school would benefit by having it within the grounds. Neale thanked him for his continued support.</p> <p>HMIE – Neale highlighted that in the HMIE's Follow Through Report the Parent Council are described as "very supportive and active". Item 2 of the report, <i>Continuous Improvement</i>, states: "The schools reputation in the community is improving" and "The strong Parent council has been an asset in repairing the reputation"</p>
10.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING
	The next meeting will be held on Thursday 13 th May.