

ARRAN HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, 4 September 2018

Present: Vivien Crichton, Alison Currie, Suzie Dick, Susan Foster, Clare Gilmore, Sheila Gilmore, Ishbel Gordon, Faye Hamill, Greg Hamill, Andy McNamara, Lizzie McCarthy, Gordon Provan, Barry Smith, Nickey Summer, Derek Wilson

Apologies: Mandy Aitken, JM, Claire McNiven, Ann Reid

Minutes: Pauline Robertson

Minutes from Previous Meeting

Proposed: SG

Seconded: GH

Matters Arising

- Andrew Walsh has passed on access to Parent Council Facebook page to PR.
Action: BS to pass on login details of school website to PR in order that minutes may be published.
- SG still not on mailing list for school newsletter.
Action: BS to check with office staff.

Treasurer's Report

- Grant received from SRU for kit.
- 50/50 Club running smoothly.
- Proposal that 3D printer materials be purchased from PC Admin account.
Action: AC to check viability with A Graham.

Head Teacher's Report

- BS introduced Mrs Susan Foster, Depute Head Teacher, and welcomed her to the meeting.
Action: PR to add to mailing list.
- Staffing – Mrs Walker, Support for Learning, has resigned and will leave at the end of the month. There will be a temporary Acting PT for the time being. Mrs MacLeod and Mrs Glendining, Classroom Assistants, are also leaving in September.
Maths vacancy – Mrs Lemmey is working towards dual qualification in Maths and Physics and also working in the Social Subjects department. Mrs Pennycott continues to assist with Maths. The position will be re-advertised in the future.
Mr Scott has taken on general supply duties in school.
- Scottish Cabinet Meeting – this event was hugely successful and a fantastic experience for our young people. Many extremely positive comments were passed to BS. The discussion with John Swinney gave BS the opportunity to voice concerns that Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) did not necessarily reflect the real needs on the island e.g. difficulties in staffing. Education (Scotland) Bill was also discussed.
- SQA results – mixed picture overall. S4; pass rate same as last year. S5; disappointing at top end particularly in areas discussed at previous meetings. S6; Higher and Advanced Higher results very strong.
- Scottish Opera – members came into school to offer tuition to senior pupils. Many thanks to Mrs Gough of the McLellan Festival for arranging this event.
- Sport – rugby and basketball teams took part in off island tournaments.
- Visible Learning Plus programme – this three-year programme commences with a launch day on 7 September. This is an exciting project for all involved.

- BS spoke of an incident, which happened the previous week, where five S4 students were excluded for admitting to smoking cannabis in the Whitehouse Woods. BS requested help and support in working together to raise awareness in school and the wider community. Colin Haddow, Community Police Officer, is willing to come into school to speak with pupils to discuss substance abuse, including the impact on mental health. It was agreed by those present that a similar event aimed at parents during the Open Evening would be worthwhile. SG told of a previous programme on alcohol awareness, which had a positive impact.

Action: BS to invite PC Haddow.

Presentation on Monitoring & Tracking

SD spoke to parents about the school's system of tracking and monitoring, which gives an overview for all subjects including afterschool/lunchtime clubs etc. helping identify progress and improving understanding. Individual reports are given out at Parents Evenings.

Future Learn: Extending Learning funding Request

Online learning portal for over 130 universities and colleges. These courses are free to take part on registration and provide an ideal way for students to try out subject areas, which may interest them, before making university applications. Some parts of the course incur charges e.g. certificates. This will be available to S6 students as part of their Wider Achievement studies.

Request for £250 funding to run the course on a trial basis.

Action: Approved – AC to discuss with AG.

SF asked for information on employment of islanders. Case studies of pathways to current position/job requested.

Action: SF to pass info to GP to disseminate.

Correspondence

Connect membership/Certificate of Employers' Liability received.

AOCB

- Discussion on School of Sport status. AMcN expressed concern that participation is for a small number of students and would like it widened to all those wishing to take part. BS replied that all S1 pupils had been offered the opportunity to join. This model exists in other schools and funding here is tied to triathlon membership and will be evaluated at the end of the three-year period.
- Request for increased parental volunteer pool for school trips. GP noted that this had been suggested previously and Parent Council is willing to pay for PVGs.

Action: SD to email offer to parents.

SLT to discuss further advertising.

Dates of Forthcoming Meetings

It was agreed to continue holding meetings on a Tuesday, although it is appreciated that not all members are free to attend.

- Tuesday, 13 November 2018
- Tuesday, 5 February 2019

7:00 pm, Arran High School