

PRESTON LODGE HIGH SCHOOL
MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
THURSDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2007
AT
PRESTON LODGE HIGH SCHOOL

Present: Mr J Berg, Parent Representative and Vice Chair
Mrs M Stuart, Parent Representative
Mrs L Robertson, Parent Representative
Mr J Tait, Parent Representative
Mrs L Mitchell, Parent Representative
Mrs L Morgan, Parent Representative
Mrs L Marshall, Parent Representative
Mrs A Black, Parent Representative
Ms V Burns, Co-opted Pupil Representative
Mr A Gibson, Co-opted Pupil Representative
Ms M Angus, Co-Opted Teacher Representative
Ms K Carson, Co-opted Teacher Representative
Mr W Galbraith, Head Teacher
Mrs J Dunlop, Clerk

Kenny McKay, Deputy Head
Calum Stewart, Deputy Head
Julia Robertson, Deputy Head
Liz Nicoll, Teacher
Jean Balloch, Parent Observer

1. APOLOGIES AND WELCOME

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Mrs Gilroy, Mrs Turner, Mr Spence, Cllr McKenzie and Cllr Libberton. Mr Berg,, Vice Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting, including the Ms Carson who has been co-opted onto the Council as a Teacher representative and Vicky Burns and Andrew Gibson who have been co-opted onto the Council as Pupil Representatives.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Proposed by Mrs Stuart and seconded by Mrs Mitchell, the minutes of the meeting of 4 October 2007 were agreed as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING BUT NOT ON THE AGENDA

- a) Four co-opted vacancies have been filled with teacher and pupil representatives. It was agreed to approach the three community councils to see if they would like to send a representative to be co-opted onto the Council. (*Action Mr Galbraith*)
- b) Duke of Edinburgh Award – Ms Carson noted that the 3rd year pupils have been given the opportunity to do the Duke of Edinburgh Award (Bronze). They can either do the whole award or just a section of it. The school is being used as a pilot scheme and there is funding available for parents to be trained to act as leaders. So far 90 pupils have intimated that they would be interested, although some 30 have completed the necessary paperwork.

4. SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

Mr Galbraith noted that there is a strong overlap with the aspirations of the Parent Council and what the school is currently doing. Mr Galbraith had arranged for presentations from staff on various initiatives that were being undertaken within the school development plan.

Health Promoting School – Liz Nicoll made a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file) explaining that Preston Lodge had achieved stage 1 accreditation and is now aiming for stage 2. Parents would be asked to fill out questionnaires on-line and asked that the parent council members did this first as a trial. There were various other initiatives going on throughout the school including an (intended) audit of extra-curricular activity to gauge to what extent active sports contribute to the provision of physical activity across the year groups. Mrs Marshall asked how this would link into other areas of the curriculum as there was a danger that it could become fragmented. Mr Galbraith explained that the Curriculum for Excellence programme is a theme-based approach to learning which should embed many whole school priorities including health promotion within the curriculum.

Curriculum for Excellence- Julia Robertson made a PowerPoint presentation on the Curriculum for Excellence (copy on file). This looks at the methodology of teaching based on clear outcomes for learners. At some point in the future 5-14 levels attainment will be phased out to be replaced by a single framework for the curriculum from 3-18. This will continue to be a key part of the school's Development Plan, for some time. Mrs Robertson invited one of the parent members to be part of the Learning and Teaching Group which will next meet on 11 January, 2008.

School Website – Calum Stewart showed the Council the school's new web-site (www.prestonLodge.net) and explained that it is in fact lots of little websites which join up to look like one. It uses blogging technology and the means by which many contributors - pupils, parents and staff – have the facility to communicate developments and achievement more effectively. Pupils can apply to be webmaster for individual areas and pupils are selected from every year group. The school is still working on how much editorial control of the website will be required. However the Council did have concerns on what would be posted although Mr Galbraith noted that responsible use of web technology is part of the pupils' education and the school would always deal with inappropriate usage. Parents will be texted to let them know when the website is going "live" and the Parent Council suggested having a launch. The Council agreed that this was a fantastic facility. Mr Stewart asked members of the Council if they would like training on the website to contact him.

Pupil Support – Kenny McKay gave a presentation on Pupil Support (copy on file). He explained how the support team are used in school and how the support system is structured. He also outlined how the Staged Assessment and Intervention policy operated within and beyond the school in support of young people. Preston Lodge is also piloting an Enhanced Learning Programme (ELP) supported by an extra 0.5 FTE teacher. This is supporting pupils who may at one time not have been educated in a mainstream school. He felt that the school was supporting more effectively the pupils with additional support needs and also other pupils in school were also benefiting. The school has also seen a reduction in exclusions by 22% and a reduction in days lost through exclusions has dropped 42%, since 2005 despite there being a National increase in exclusions.

5. WORKING GROUPS

It was agreed that the working groups would meet prior to the next Parent Council meeting. They would appoint a Chairperson and work on their agenda and timescales for outcomes. The Chairperson of each group would then report back at the Parent Council meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 6 December 2007