

Parent Council

TUESDAY 20/09/2022

Forrester High School

Present; Lorraine Kneebone (Chair), Jackie Barn (Deputy Chair), Stephen Rafferty, Emma Spence (Treasurer), Sandra Donaldson (Secretary), Sann Hamilton, Letitia Wilson, Hilary Brown, Julie Scott, Kate MacPhie, Susan Stevens, James Hardacre, Kate Givan, Sarah Segovia, Francisca Akujobi, April Forsyth, Donna Lumsden

1. Welcome Meeting commenced at 7pm. Welcome to new attendees.

2. Apologies/ action points. Angela Watson, Gillian Murray, Donna Dennis, Marianne Sandison, Gillian Napier, Sharon Robertson, Sarah Montgomery, Mark Peart

- JB, LK and KMacP to discuss coffee meeting for parents – in the process of being organised
- JB and AW to look at PC page on new website – JB and JH now to look at – access still required
- SD to email SR re classroom temperature – done. There are no Covid measures in place at the moment. Windows are generally open for ventilation but can close if cold
- SR to arrange for refresh on toilet break guidance to pupils - delicate subject and down to teachers Judgement – assemblies may be the way to emphasise
- SR to canvass interest for replacement for IMacG - Chelsea Wilson is Irene's support for learning role and has agreed to attend PC meetings
- PE teachers to monitor cleanliness of changing rooms – down to Mitie. Will not clean during school hours. It has been a difficult time due to flooding which caused extensive damage. Managed to avert from hall due to barricade but was cleared overnight and school opened next day. Some students displaced and some doors and carpets replaced. Measures put in place to stop the drains backing up in future.
- LK to take prom issues to NW Locality meeting – Meeting at the end of September. There is talk of pulling back from formal events. SR said Prom Committee agree with this – cost of living and cost to the school. Ideas taken back to the wider group. Further meeting on Friday

3. Headteachers Report

SQA results – hard to compare at the moment. There are a lot of appeals. The appeals process will probably be pared back in the next few years. S5 did really well but some others didn't do as well. Have some insight but for reports, comparator across the country will be out tomorrow.

There are shortages of teachers in many subjects, with a lot of red tape and bottlenecks. Cover teachers in school have been reduced by re-writing the

timetables and teachers have been deployed to other classes. There is cover in English at the moment and are waiting on the advert to go live. Tome was here for a year on a temporary basis but is now permanent.

PEF – maternity leave in early October. There will be an email going out about parent help for Saturday morning football. Modern Studies was previously covered by non-specialist. Maths currently on hold – looking at flexibility and the advert is now closed.

Duke of Edinburgh (DofE)– everyone is keen on this. The library always has something going on – currently book festival. English has excursions planned. Extra curricular activities – hoping to have football teams for s1, S2 and S3.

There is an ongoing national shortage of teachers, CDT especially. There are extra resources online – BBC Bitesize, E-Sgoil for example. There is not as much homework – S3 pupils need to do own research/learning.

Show my Homework(SMHW) – some parents still getting notifications through Satchel One. Parent access to Teams still being looked at, need background permission from the Council. There is a numeracy/literacy powepoint which is available on the school website and can maybe look into getting this sent out. Homework puts extra pressure on teachers. Going to try and get a meeting with Cllr Euan Davidson. Possibly look at sending list of questions in advance.

Parents night will be Face to Face (F2F) this year. The Wellbeing Hub/Equality/Extra Support Base (ESB) are working really well for students . Re-connecting with the school through planned intervention getting students back into school. There is also a programme to develop skills which will have an impact beyond the bounds of school, working on behaviours.

ESB has had a change of management – new curriculum lead. S1-S2 – what happens next – looking at programmes and links. Young carers – S2-S6 assembly held and S1 this week.

Black History month in November – show racism the red card.

YPI – further bake sale on 28 September for the charity that won last year – Edinburgh Childrens Charity. They also went to the Grange Manor care home and organised afternoon tea/bingo

4. PC Workstream Priorities Discussion:

- Website – currently the website is constantly being populated. JB & JH to meet with SR to get access to the pages etc – engagement with school/carers
- Email – social skills/youth club/counselling – set up survey. Hard to get to pupils after S2 and need early engagement – should aim to get to the pupils before P6. PC remit would be to get survey circulated as widely as possible. Places are closing – existing clubs etc. Have already done parental focus groups. Only the school can do a survey to pupils – ethical permissions. Can

gather ideas – Sighthill has clubs etc – what's out there in other areas? Posters in library? Eg Gate 55 – not well advertised but is council funded. Is there a gap in certain areas? Why aren't existing clubs being used? Broomhouse Hub has different things for different age groups. Could groups come into the school to promote the clubs?. There is a gap with S2/S3 parents – haven't had F2F for 2 years. Could there be a separate event for these years as well as the wider parental group? Looking for volunteers to brainstorm for ideas.

- Wider achievements curtailed for 2 years – this has affected pupils. For example there used to be activities week. DofE – everyone has access to this but there is an associated cost. There is also a science club. Parents evening – the dates should be on the website – can we get PC volunteers? Issue annual comms re role of PC.
- CV/Interview skills – JS/LK to pick up with John re Christmas leavers. 4 sessions held at other schools – one interview today and 2 now have jobs. Now have the use of community centre at Gyle Park but no WiFi – good for 1-2-1 sessions and small groups.

4. Wellebing Hub Update

No-one available – see update from Kate on

5. Equality and Enhanced Support Base update

Wider achievements S5/S6 – what is classed as a study period and when should they stay in school? Most periods they should remain in school. There is supported study but S6 have more free periods. Carry forward for wider discussion – work experience/college? Possibly depends on subjects. Further sessions on Raising Teens With Confidence.

7. Treasurer Report & Funding Awards

Amount hasn't changed since AGM - £1,433 – approx. another £900 due in November. Kate considering to put in bid for YPI funding. Could snacks etc be provided for parents evenings? Ideas to LK or ES.

8. Any Other Business

- Newly appointed councillor Euan Davidson to be invited to future PC meetings
- S1 transition feedback has been positive and helpful following lockdown
- Connect events and resources – SD to attend session on Hearing Parents' Voices session 11/10/22 (see attached presentation).
- Family groups – siblings are meant to be in the same house, but twins have been put in separate houses and classes so have different contact for issues
- Connect events & resources – parental forums across Scotland
- What's going on Education/Councils

9. Teacher Recognition

Nominations made, however agreed all staff should be thanked for everything they do on top of their normal jobs, study groups, emotional support etc.

Action points

- JB and JH to meet with SR to SMHW look at PC page on new website and arrange access
- SR to gauge what is happening regarding homework and SMHW
- KMacP to send email to PC for funding
- Volunteers to brainstorm for ideas how to reach out to wider parental groups
- Volunteers for attendance at parental evenings
- Annual comms re role of PC
- SD to feedback on Hearing Parents Voices - Campaigns

Proposed dates of PC meetings:

20 September 2022

8 November 2022

10 January 2023

7 March 2023

25 April 2023

13 June 2023 (AGM)