

Parent Council

TUESDAY 11/06/2024

Forrester High School

Present; Jackie Barn (Deputy Chair), Stephen Rafferty (Head Teacher), Emma Spence (Treasurer), Sandra Donaldson (Secretary), Sann Hamilton, Kate Givan, Laetitia Wilson, Susan Stevens, Katie Duffy, James Hardacre, April Forsyth

1.Welcome/Apologies Jeimmy Suarez Martinez, Julie Scott

2. Previous minutes/Action points.

- SR to put details of the JET programme on the school website – still to do.
- SR to find out more about Outward Bound – this is a complex matter and will be looked into in the future. Deposits paid and SR will check with Stuart Sneddon. Too late to change now.
- SR to look into focus group or other solution for attendance messages. This has been hard to manage. Whilst the school understands there may be last minute issues causing absence, the school is short staffed in the office and more notice is required for the absence reason. Lisa is doing more work on this and hopefully the office staffing will get sorted out.
- KG to look into what help is available for online safety. A few links have been sent – email from the National Crime Agency and a film about dangers through the eyes of a child. Links have been added to the parent section of the website. All staff got the same mailing

3. Head Teacher Update

Staffing:

Languages – 2 vacancies. Waiting for the job info to go live and it will probably be august for this. LW has been working with Miss Marr

Maths will be fully staffed, however there is currently a sickness absence. Awaiting a newly qualified teacher. One is maths trained and another has been trained in Support for Learning (SFL).

Business Manager – there is a new member of staff who will be starting 1 July. Neil Hunter is leaving and others haven't been trained in systems and processes. There has been an offer of support from Craigmount – onboarding over the summer

Extra Support Base (ESB) – there is a Pupil Support Assistant (PSA) vacancy and approval has been received to recruit for this and another starts on Monday.

Geography – newly qualified permanent staff recruited.

The school is leading change and improvement and staff are in a good place at the moment. The leadership team are affecting change and they were facilitators at eh leadership residential event which took place recently. This was a positive event an was received well by staff.

On Friday the Scottish Curriculum Quality Framework (SCQF) will be publishing a review. For culture & change, Osiris has bee working with the school. They work with 5 staff from Forrester and 5 from Craigmount. There is a review of feedback, engagement and challenge, for example in gaming analogy. Staff are open to learning conversations and coaching but trying to be more assertive. It's a way of trying to find common ground.

Cards used to be sent out when pupils were doing well which helped improve engagement, these were well received. Looking into what can be spread around the school to promote engagement.

The school is looking at the issues impacting on attainment. There has been a restructuring in maths and computing. The CL for business is now also working in computing and expects positive results. Looking at different pathways for pupils.

The maths CL carried out a mini Supported Self Evaluation (SSE) with 2 learning leads, SR and John MacPhie, along with 2 staff from Craigmount. The outcome was really encouraging. The CL (Sarah Batton) is demonstrating good leadership and has hit the ground running. The difference she is making is being felt/heard in the department and she has vast subject knowledge. She has gained good credibility within the team and with the pupils, who are more enthusiastic.

There is robust tracking of pupils from P7 now. Staff went into primary schools who are doing tracked assessments and gathering robust knowledge before they arrive. Each teacher will know where each pupil is at from the start of S1. They will then monitor progression from P7 to S1 and future work will be set at the appropriate level.

Pathways have changed as not everyone goes to University, and there has been a change in teachers mindset. For example, working with maths and the application of maths (apps) at an earlier stage. Apps can no be taken at Higher level. There is also a course on Personal Finance which can be taken at level 6.

Presentation has increased at level 5. For level 5 Apps, there are several comparative options which will put the school up for comparator purposes. This starts in S4 but some content can be worked S1-S3. If a pupil is not coping with maths, they will not be put up for the full maths exam, however there is still a pathway for pure maths, which most universities will accept. This can be done at Higher level/Level 6 at the same time.S2 pupils did both this year, being 14 more than last year.

There has bee a change to the curriculum so that there are now 7 periods each day and 7 subjects across the week. It hasn't had a big impact and seems to be working well. This should see an improvement to qualifications at a higher level (not necessarily Highers). There are lots of alternative courses at higher levels.

There is free choice of subjects into S3 for 9 subjects. Rather than pushing science/expressive/wellbeing courses, this gives the opportunity to get more Highers/Level 6 qualifications. The subjects taken drops to 6 in S5 and S6, which includes college. Advanced Highers count as 2 subjects. The Hayward report suggested there is too much testing. There is a tariff for going to Universities.

There are broad sets in maths, which are supported and narrow as the year goes on.. There are Pathways through to S6 and remediation for those that are struggling. Feedback is given on assessments. If there are any issues, Sarah Ross can be contacted.

4. Chair report



FHS PC AGM
11_6_24 - chair repo

JB wished to pay thanks to Julie for her support, as well as James for updating the website, and Emma for the Treasury activities.

5. Treasurer's report



Treasurers Report
for FHPC AGM 11 Ju

There are also alternatives to obtaining help, such as Morrisons as Charity Champions, to obtain snacks for school extra study sessions etc. Funding requested for next year from the PE department for the football/referees.

6. Election of Office Bearers

Treasurer – Emma Spence

Secretary – Sandra Donaldson

Chair/Deuty Chair – no volunteers, see rota at proposed dates

Website – James Hardacre

7. Teacher recognition

Names put forward

8. Meeting dates

See at end of minutes

9. Work/Topics for 2024/2025

- Attendance/Texting
- Tracking Report & Consultation
- Wider Experience/Trips
- Family Learning ideas

10. AOB.

JB explained there are discussions ongoing between Mitie, the Business Manager and the Building Owner .around using part of the school.

Parents evening will be before Course Choice evening.

Meeting ended 8.55

Action points

- SR to put details of the JET programme on the school website
- SR to find out more about Outward Bound for potential future trips

Dates of PC meetings:

10 September 2024 – James Hardacre

12 November 2024 – April Forsyth

14 January 2025 – Kate Givan

18 March 2025 – Susan Stevens

29 April 2025 – Laetitia Wilson

10 June 2025 (AGM) - Joint

Role of Chair

- Meet with HT to review draft minutes & agree agenda for next meeting
- Chair the PC meeting;
 - make sure meeting runs smoothly & efficiently
 - run in an inclusive & friendly way
 - effective decisions are made
- Monitor PC mailbox
- Liaise with school & treasurer over funding plans for PC money
- Point of contact for the school to raise/discuss any issues or proposed changes
- Assist with interviews/recruitment when necessary (generally management level)
- Give an annual report at the AGM