

OBAN HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 3rd September 2018 at 6pm

Conference Room, Oban High School

Minutes

Present: Mr Bain, Gail Brack, Kenny Brack, Mr Champion, Mr Craik, Terry Donovan, Lucy Files, Cheryl Howe, Mrs Jackson, Ms Johnstone, Mr Macfadyen, Mr Martin, Caragh Scott, Maggie Thorpe, Federica Warnock, Sally Weaver.

1. **Apologies:** Francesca Bichard, Mr Duncan, Lyndsay Elliot, Julie Fairbrass, Caroline Macarthur, Michelle Macfadyen, Joan Reynolds, Elaine Robertson.

2. **Minutes of last meeting** on 15th May accepted.

3. Matters Arising:

- a. **Fundraising** – update from previous year - Christmas Cracker, Parents Evenings, Charities Day, Induction Evening, Prizegiving.
Easyfundraising and Weather Lottery still operational – need to promote again.

Lucy had spent a lot of time setting up 100 club, need to encourage more people to sign up, 40 at time of the meeting. First draw 28th September to be drawn at assembly, different clans to make the draw over the coming months.

Dates of Parents' Evenings are on website for members to provide teas and coffees and promote our activities.

Fundraising meeting to be arranged soon – promote the date further afield to get more volunteers: Facebook, Website and possibly texts. Terry stepping down as lead for the Fundraising Group, though will still be actively involved.

- b. **Raising our profile** – presence at Induction was good for this.

Arrange to meet with Pupil Leadership groups to promote the PC to the pupils and ask what they would like us to spend money on. **Action: Alex**

Promote uniform exchange at upcoming Parents' Evenings - advertise on Facebook. Art Department may be able to help with posters.

Look into organising a book exchange for study notes. Contact Kerry Stewart.

Action: Terry

Jingles outfits to be recycled - Gail and Sally volunteered to take this forward - suggested we organise a night for swaps/alterations/hair, make-up and nails.

Action: Gail, Sally

Facebook access still not directly available for PC - member to be identified to act as the contact. **Action: Maggie**

- c. **New School** – various snagging issues being sorted out, as to be expected. Promethean boards now all working fully with iPad which is good progress. Show my Homework will be working soon.

Teachers have had training on Google Classroom which helps pupils catch up if they have been off school. It will be fully on-line by December.

Final phase of building work will be complete by Jan/Feb 2019. There will be a new entrance with 'The Avenue' as the approach. The car parking spaces will be tripled. The new pitch is now open.

Officially there is no pupil Wi-Fi – the school needs to put a business case to the Council and there is a cost implication. Pupils can presently get access to guest Wi-Fi. It is useful for older years, but a problem if used by lots of pupils as it overloads the system.

- d. **Staffing** – 13 of 14 vacant posts were filled by the end of last term, but there are now Science, Maths and Tech vacancies, closing on 7th September. Tech posts are always difficult to fill. If not filled younger pupils will be moved to extra English rather than having supply teachers and move back when posts filled. Further 7 posts being advertised.

There is a Guidance vacancy that is being covered temporarily for a guidance teacher to return to teaching own subject. Two depute vacancies, and still short of a maths teacher despite 5 adverts.

Many thanks from the Parent Council and all parents to the teachers for their hard work over the period of shortages.

- e. **School Improvement Plan** – report by Mr Champion. Trained teachers have been taking part in Learning Walks in the school, which are brief classroom visits for observation purposes. Tracking and monitoring of pupils is ongoing.

Health and Wellbeing is focussing on robust, resilient mental health and relationships. Teachers will undertake training in trauma and attachment awareness over the coming months. The 3 Rs group have already met – Resilience, Relationships and Respect. They have also been looking at suicide awareness.

There will be showings of a film called 'Resilience' for pupils and parents, also to teachers.

There is also a 3 Ts club – Tea, Toast and Tutoring. This has proved to be very successful, and they are looking for more teachers to get involved.

Funding has been obtained for a free sanitary towels project – managed by Mr Champion and Joan Reynolds. To be launched on Facebook. Tesco will be the subsidised provider hopefully. 40 girls helped to get it together. 4 pupils, including 2 boys are looking at public awareness and education around the project.

Attendance is being looked at, especially with 5th and 6th years. Also looking at the effectiveness of self-evaluation with pupils.

Some teachers working in trios after October – Collegial Method. 4 probationer teachers are doing very well; some of the younger teachers have offered to help with mentoring.

As part of Developing a Young Workforce a Junior Pathways programme has been launched.

Please pass any comments on the School Improvement Plan, which is a work in progress, to Maggie who will collate.

Action: all parents

The recognition that other schools get for their initiatives is more to do with presentation of the results in the final stages. Oban High need to promote their projects and initiatives, at present not so well packaged as some other schools, but definitely benefitting pupils.

- f. **Poverty Equity Funding/Raising Attainment** – presentation by Mrs Jackson. Approximately 30% of pupils entitled to additional support needs. Mr Bain explained that the SIMD is based on postcodes so less accurate for rural population.

Oban High has the broadest curriculum of any school in Scotland with 95 courses. Enhancement activities are provided by the Schools of Dance, Rugby and Traditional Music. Pathways work with many organisations and businesses in the town including Dunollie House, Oban Live, SAMS. Duke of Edinburgh is also offered in the school, and as an extra-curricular activity. Plans to develop the young workforce and offer extra awards.

There is now a junior leadership team since last year.

Live-n-Learn project delivered to 4th and 5th year, looking at a Growth v a Fixed Mindset.

Homework clubs, 2 senior and 1 junior. Supported study starts after the October holidays. Easter supported study is very popular, held in the college last year which worked really well.

Last year the following were targeted: Literacy; youth supported worker; educational psychologist; breakfast club – average of 20 members from Jan to May, these numbers have doubled in the new school; S1 Fresh Start helping pupils with a reading age of nine and a half and under. 12 pupils worked with, average increase of reading age was 2 years. 20 pupils this year with two more teachers volunteering to be involved, and some of the pupils from last year will still be in a second stage of the project.

Working to increase chances for everyone. Also closing the attainment gap through tracking and monitoring.

2018/19 PEF Strategies: Mrs Jackson appointed to oversee Attainment Strategies. Also looking to employ a new Youth Development Worker/Attendance Home Link Worker full time/term time. This individual will support pupils with learning in the community with satellite education in the evening. The school will also continue with the Breakfast Club; Assertive Mentoring; Fresh Start; Live-n-Learn; Peer mentoring; Outward Bound courses.

These initiatives all came from consultations in April 2017 with parents, pupils and teachers, and are all based on educational research.

- g. Examination results – Mr Craik provided a presentation. Advanced Higher and Higher pass rates increased. Remarking of exams costs £33 and around 12% are moved up. Oban High is the highest presenting school for Baccalaureate in Scotland.

4. New Business:

- a. **Parental engagement in lessons** – Mr Craik explained 2017/18 parents invited to 20 live lessons in total with positive response. In 2018/19 each teacher will present 2 live lessons – if possible senior and junior included. Emails have been sent out, also on website and Facebook.
- b. **Parent Council Conference** in June was attended by Suzanne Thompson, who will make available a short report. Thanks to Suzanne for attending.
- c. **AGM** – date required. Suggestions required for something to add to AGM to attract more parents along – please email ideas to Maggie or Terry. **Action: All**

5. AOCB

Treasurer's report – around £8,000 in the PC account. £3500 required for annual maintenance of the school minibus, which the school has been covering at present, but the PC needs to be prepared to cover this when required. PC members asked to email Terry with ideas for spending this money, also suggested to ask the SPLT for ideas. Some suggestions were furniture for outside once the landscaping is finished, use of former sails for making some covered areas, maybe get engineering students involved in the design. **Action: All**

Maggie to ask Mr Hamilton for costs of T shirts so parents can pay. **Action: Maggie**

- 6. **Date of next meeting** will be the AGM in November, date to be agreed.