

Prestwick Academy Parent Council

Minutes of Monday 12th of September 2022 Prestwick Academy

In attendance: Alastair McIntyre, Elaine Harrigan, Jill Wright, Fiona Baird, Gemma Wallbanks, Hugh Hunter, Louise Lauchlan, Karen McConnell, Fiona Heron, Euan Terras, Naomi Priestnall, Karen Vaughan,

1. Introduction

Alastair McIntyre welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new session 22/23 and explained the purpose is to discuss matters of general interest and any specific issues should be raised with the school. As the country was in a period of national mourning a minute's silence was held. Ms Stevenson and Ms McGoldrick were unable to attend and did not deliver their agenda items.

2. Attendance and apologies

Those attending were noted. Apologies from Jerry Fergusson, Monique Morrison and Emma Boughen

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The draft Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th May 2022 had been circulated by email in advance. Their acceptance was proposed by Fiona Baird and seconded by Alastair McIntyre.

4. Report from the Chair

As this was the first meeting of the session there was little to feedback. Alastair had attended the Senior Prize Giving. This had included an interesting presentation from former pupil, Professor Eleanor Shaw OBE who is an Entrepreneur in the Education field. Musical presentations from pupils were included.

Alastair will attend the Parent Council Chairs meeting on the 13th of September.

5. Treasurer's Report

Fiona stated the current balance in the Prestwick Academy Parent Council bank account is £58.68. There was a discussion on the need for a bank account and it was decided Fiona will explore with RBS how to close the account. Names on the last statement are David Watson, Alison McNeill and Margaret Thompson. The money in the account will be transferred to the school.

6. Head Teacher's Report

Roll for census was 1234, however, we already find ourselves at 1236 with additional placing requests. Again, our roll is the highest secondary school within South Ayrshire. All vacancies are now filled and we currently operate with 83.7FTE staff. Staff retiring last session:

- Ms Thomson – English
- Mrs Happell – Maths
- Mr Robertson – Physics
- Mr Hall – Technician

SQA Attainment

Attainment for session 2021/22 was as follows:

Prestwick Academy: Percentage % of pupils achieving SQA National Awards at grades A-C by end of S4, S5, S6

Stage	2018/19	2020/21	2021/22	% point change on last year				
Authority								
2021/22								
2021/22 position vs authority			Initial Targets Session 2022/23					
5+ awards @ Level 3	S4	74.0	91.6	90.0	-1.6	87	above	100
5+ awards @ Level 4	S4	70.1	86.3	83.3	-2.9	81	above	90
5+ awards @ Level 5	S4	55.4	53.5	47.5	-6.0	44	above	55
1+ awards @ Level 6	S5	71.3	68.7	63.7	-4.9	59	above	70
3+ awards @ Level 6	S5	41.9	46.5	40.7	-5.8	40	In line	50
5+ awards @ Level 6	S5	19.2	16.1	19.0	+2.9	19	In line	25
1+ awards @ Level 7	S6	16.2	26.5	21.2	-5.3	24	above	30

Parent/Carer Evenings

The majority response for parent/carers evenings was to continue online. These have been set-up as follows:

Year Group	Date
S1	Monday 27 February 2023
S2	Tuesday 17 January 2023
S3	Monday 27th March 2023
S4	Monday 10th October 2022
S5/6	Tuesday 25th October 2022

Opening Evening drop-ins will be held as follows:

Year Group	Date	Time
BGE (S1-S3)	Tuesday 27th September 2022	5pm – 7 pm
Senior Phase (S4-S6)	Monday 21 November 2022	5pm – 7pm

The purpose of the open evening is to showcase department and the working life of the school. Discussion about individual young people will not be held at these events.

Tracking, Monitoring and Reporting Dates

Year Group	Report 1	Report 2	Report 3
S1	Wed 30 Nov 2022	Thurs 23 Feb 2023	Wed 31 May 2023
S2	Thu 6 October 2022	Wed 14 Dec 2022	Thu 16 March 2023
S3	Fri 28 October 2022	Wed 22 Feb 2023	Thu 04 May 2023
S4/5/6	Fri 30 Sept 2022	Fri 16 Dec 2022	Fri 17 March 2023

Pupil Equity Funding

Pupil Equity funding of £85, 750 was received. We have identified that approximately 20% of our young people are experiencing poverty, however, they may have increased due to more recent cost of living increases. This session we will look at 3 key aims:

- Increase attendance, attainment and engagement for targeted groups of young people.
- Targeted Literacy Support (BGE) to address attainment gaps and allow identified young people to access the curriculum.
- To Embed a Creative and Consistent Approach to Learning, Teaching and Assessment within the BGE.

Teacher Costs: £ 10,448 (Additional costs – acting up – 1 x PT Pedagogy, 1 x PT Targeted Attainment Support Staff: £ 73,312 (Education Welfare, School Assistant, Library Assistant)
Resources: £1,990

School Improvement Plan

Continuation from Session 2021/22

- To develop consistent, high-quality learning and teaching across the school in order to raise attainment.
- Support and improve young people's health and wellbeing by Getting It Right For Every Child. Ensure learners' attendance improves, they are ready to learn, supported at all stages, including transition, and that every young person feels confident and able to flourish as part of the Prestwick Community.
- Continue to review our curriculum rationale to ensure all stakeholders understand what we are trying to achieve for all young people. Evaluate our BGE and senior phase curriculum models to ensure we meet the needs of all young people while developing employability skills to support young people move onto positive and sustained post-school destinations.

Young People from Ukraine

We have a number of young people that have joined us from Ukraine this session. Staff have been taking part in training events to help support them in our school. Prestwick Academy students have been extremely supportive and welcomed the young people to our school.

School Website

The school website is in the process of being updated and is due to launch on our return from the October holidays. This is slightly later than planned.

7. School Captains' Report

Naomi Priestnall introduced herself as school captain. The captains are at the planning stage and are having meetings with Mr Ross. An idea is to put new boards up at the start of every corridor with staff photos and names. Leavers hoodies are also a priority. Alastair encouraged parents to contribute activities in which the School Captains and school could become involved.

An attendee commented on the success of Carers day in the school, highlighting the excellent role the school played.

8. Presentation

Ms Vaughan discussed the schools plans on targeted attainment. Historically, this has always been looked at by the school but now a wider and longer term look will be taken with meaningful change sought. The current stage is collecting information which will then be analysed. Views of pupils, parents, teachers and best practice in other schools will be included and the best fit for Prestwick Academy will be worked on. This will include looking at the curriculum and option choices. Finding good learning and teaching and marrying this up with what young people are finding most receptive. There is a lot of research around how extra-curricular activities can support increasing attainment. Growing the pride pupils have in the school may encourage them to try harder and perform better in class. Much of the work will be to identify where problems are and why young people are getting Bs and not As.

Ms Vaughan encouraged parents with any questions to get in touch with her.

A parent asked if this would be implemented school wide or targeted at individuals? It will initially be targeted at individual pupils.

9. Election of Office Bearers

This was the annual general meeting and election of office bearers took place for the coming session. Four positions were to be filled, Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Euan Terras nominated Alastair McIntyre as Chair, seconded by Jill Wright. Jerry Ferguson has stepped down as Vice Chair and there were no nominations for this position. Jill Wright was nominated as Secretary by Alastair McIntyre and Seconded by Fiona Baird. Fiona Baird was nominated Treasurer by Gemma Wallbanks and seconded by Louise Lauchlan.

10. Plan for the Year/Meeting schedule 2022/23

It was agreed Parent Council meetings will take place in person at the school on the second Monday every second month.

If anyone has a topic they would like to find out more about or a speaker they would like to hear from, to get in touch with Alastair or the school.

It was suggested the Parent Council should send out a letter to parents explaining what is involved in joining the parent council.

11. AOCB

Emailed parent question. Why is there an extra S1 period of Maths, Maths has 5 and English 4? Elaine Harrigan explained this rotated in S2 with English having 5 and Maths 4. This was due to timetabling. The head teacher explained the supported study timetable is being worked on at the moment and should begin in October.

Emailed parent question around homework. Mrs Harrigan has emailed a pro forma to all departments asking what and how they are issuing and requested this information be returned in 1 week. Some departments are using Show My Homework, some use TEAMS. This information will be passed on to parents.

Alastair thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 8.37pm.