

MINUTES OF MENZIESHILL HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2015 AT 6.30 PM

Present: H Gray, S Baird, A Collins (Chairperson), F Kelly, H Rennie, G Scott, L Waddell, L Chacko (DHT), P Crosbie (Minute)

Apologies: C Irons, K Turnbull, K McNally, S Hood,

1. Welcome

Alison welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Update

Alison confirmed the agenda for the Parent Council Heads Meeting with Paul Clancy on Thursday 19 November which consisted of Parent Pay, Growth Mindset and 33 Period Week. These topics were briefly discussed. Parent Pay is being piloted within certain schools in the city to allow parents to pay online for food etc being consumed by pupils within school. Miss Gray outlined growth mindset positively and the 33 period week was discussed.

Christmas Concert – It was agreed the Parent Council would run a Chocolate Tombola Stall at the Christmas Concert to be held on Tuesday 15th December. The proceeds from the stall will go to the Music Department to help fund a weekend at Belmont in May 2016. It was agreed a letter would be drafted to be sent out to pupils asking for donations for the stall. All donations to be handed in by the Friday before the Concert.

Miss Gray has met with Mr Millar, the new Head Teacher of Harris Academy, on a number of occasions. Mr Millar has attended the core group as an observer until he officially takes up post in January 2016. Miss Gray has invited Mr Millar to attend our Parent Council Meeting in January 2016. Miss Gray is due to meet with Mr Millar and Taletta Jamieson, Parent Involvement Officer, next week to discuss mergers between the two parent councils.

Curricular Transition

It has been decided what subjects can be offered to pupils in S4/5 and 6 next year. A mock course choice will be discussed with senior pupils over the next month.

Three formal staff meetings have been arranged with staff from both schools coming together. The first was held two weeks ago with another in January and March. The curriculum development is now well under way and the staffing complement has almost been established but will be finalised in January 2016. Processes are underway for the redeployment of principal teachers and support staff. The in-service day in May 2016 will be held with all staff who are transferring to Harris Academy to work together on that day and all staff moving to other schools to attend the school they are moving to.

Pupil Transition

A full day has been organised to look at guidance procedures and training in January 2016. S1, 2 and 3 pupils from both schools will be brought together for 3 days on 8th, 10th and 11th December at the Sports Academy. S4 pupils will be brought together in March and S5 pupils will be brought together in June for a Joint Leadership Academy before going into S6 in the new school.

It is hoped the building will be handed over in May or June 2016 for transitions to begin before the new term in August.

School Blazer – It has been agreed to offer a polyester option of blazer to all pupils as well as the woollen traditional blazer. More information will follow on this.

PE Kit – discussions are ongoing regarding the PE Kit for the new school.

House teams have identified pupils who require additional social, emotional and behavioural supports and vulnerable pupils in the nurture group have been working together. This will continue.

A survey was done by the pupils and will continue to be revisited to be updated on progress. Miss Gray has kept all pupils up to date with the progress of the building during assemblies.

Transport

Miss Chacko is on the transport committee which has met twice to discuss the best options for pupils transferring to the new school. If current pupils and primary 7 pupils live within the current catchment area of the school and more than a one mile radius from Harris Academy they will be entitled to the cost of their transport to and from school. Several options have been discussed including bus passes, bicycles and places on buses. These discussions are ongoing and updates will be received at meetings.

The issue of pupils who currently attend Menzieshill High School but do not live within the catchment area was raised as this is a small number. It was agreed to ask for these pupils to also be given subsistence with their travel to and from the new school.

Discussion was also held regarding pupils who stay in the Carse of Gowrie and Longforgan who will be travelling by bus to and from the new school.

The next meeting will be held in Menzieshill High School on Wednesday 16th December, 2015 at 6.30 pm.