Westhill Academy Parent Council AGM

5 September 2017

**Present:** Alastair Cozens (Chairperson), Carol Dalmon (Secretary), Alison Reid (Headteacher), Jason Fitzgerald (DHT), Sarah Colville (DHT), Scott Struthers (DHT), Tim Lennon (Vice-Chairperson), Debbie Dalgarno (Treasurer), Sian Christie, Emma Huntington, Karen Hodges, Cllr Ron McKail, Ganesan Palanivelu, Denise Kazmierczak, Heather McIntosh, Elaine Steel, Yvonne Rennie, Kerry Cook, Lorna Harper, Angie McGregor, Neil Jackson, Jorge De Barry, Tanya Olmedahodge, Morag Stewart, Kirsteen Knight, Amy Pirie, Lesley Kay, Fiona Herrera, Ralph Herrera, Nikki Scott-Kiddie, Caroline Strachan, Claire Taylor, Graeme Pond, Jane Tait, Gordon Tait, Chris Gibson, Lesley Neaves, Leah McPherson, Carole Innes, Luciana Maltez, Fiona Dawkins, Mandy Duggan, Lisa Nicol, Jackie Poppleton, Claire McNab, Diane Hendry, Caroline Lees, Rachel Gordon, Susan Coull, Paul Menzies, Tracey Christie, Martin Mackay, Paul Hastings

**Apologies:** Heather Brock, Rachel Thomson, Peadar McCabe, Rachel Riddell

**Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

Minutes were Proposed by Tim and Seconded by Nikki

The school has some new PE colleagues and there were 4 girls travelling to Manchester with the football team. Football strips had been sourced.

It is hoped that at next P7/S1 transition some Academy students will visit the primaries.

**Introduction to the Parent Council/Chairperson’s Report**

Alastair gave a presentation on the Parent Council and their achievements and aims.

**Treasurer’s Report**

* The account stands at £1,883.89. Debbie said that she still waiting to see if we would receive any Aberdeenshire Council funding for the year, which had reduced in recent years. Debbie gave an overview of what had been spent in the last school year, which included sports memberships, and encouraged ideas from the Parent Council for this session to be considered by the group as a whole.

**Communication Group**

* The Group were encouraged to like the Facebook page. The number of likes has increased to 735. Nikki gave an overview of the tasks undertaken by the group of 4 which includes updating the Facebook page with bulletins and other information as appropriate. Certain issues on the page are directed to the school/Parent council for comment or action.
* There are currently 4 in the group but they would encourage anyone who is interested to get in touch. There is currently a rota and the group members take it in turns to update the page.

**Office Bearers 2017/18**

* Chairperson: Alastair Cozens was approved and seconded.
* Vice Chair: Peadar McCabe was approved and seconded
* Secretary: Carol Dalmon was approved and seconded
* Treasurer: Debbie Dalgarno was approved and seconded
* Tea Ladies: Heather Brock and Rachel Thomson

**Head Teacher Report**

* Alison Reid introduced herself and her team to the Group.
* There had been some consistency in exam results with an improvement in S5 Higher results and it was hoped that students would continue to improve on this in S6
* Improvement Planning – ideas on engagement with parents should be feedback to Sarah Colville
* There will be a consultation on school uniform
* Some work in relation to the recently changed guidance groups was anticipated with perhaps a house system and competitions with ideas sought from pupil reps and the pupil council
* Staffing – there are currently vacancies in Maths and English and Support for Learning, although it was acknowledged that the Academy were in a much better position in relation to staffing than had been the case during the last session
* It is hoped to encourage more parental engagement and to that end Alison encouraged the group to view and participate in the Big Conversation survey at the link on the new school website – www.westhillacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk

**Suggestions for Future Topics**

School Improvement

Child Protection

Additional Support Needs

General Teaching Council

Extra-Curricular Activities

Parental Support of the Academy – careers, homework

S1-S6 roadmap

Sexual health teaching

LGBT Issues

Drug and Alcohol Management

Governance Arrangements

Learning and Teaching – specific subjects

Parent Survey

Preparing Pupils for Work

**AOB**

Alison was asked about aspirations in relation to improvement and she talked about Nicky Munro who provided additional support in Maths and English, which would be a focus.

Alison felt that parental engagement could be enhanced with resurrection of a fundraising group within the school/Parent Council. Discussion was held around generating interest by indicating to parents what the funds could be used for. Alison undertook to speak to the SLT team and provide some ideas.

Alison advised that she was involved in putting together an update on the School Improvement Plan to the Head of Services by 30th September.

A short discussion took place on school trips in relation to a stronger educational theme

It was acknowledged that a Curriculum for Excellence refresh would help provide some information on the system for new S1 parents and students. Parents were encouraged to look up Parentzone on the internet.

**Action: (1) S1 – S6 road map will be the Special Topic at the next meeting, (2) SLT will provide ideas for fundraising**

**Date of next meetings:**

Wednesday 11th October 2017, 7 pm, which will be advised by Groupcall, text