

Minute of Harris Academy Parent Voice Meeting



Date 21st May, 2024, 7pm

Attendance:

B. Millar (HT), M. Mcleod (Chair), E. Hallyburton (Clerk), M. Stewart (DHT), L. Hay, K. Zwart, F. Hellen, B. Adeola, F. Macpherson, K. McDonald, K. Gillespie, M. Crichton, V. Low, S. Mitchell, G. Luzitu

Apologies:

S. Grant, Cllr Campbell, Cllr El-Nakla, C. Campbell

		Action by
1	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>For the foreseeable future, Harris Parent Council meetings will be less formal so will not be proposed or seconded.</p>	
2	<p>Chair's Update</p> <p>M. Mcleod welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p><u>National Parent Forum</u> Funding from the Scottish Government has been withdrawn for the National Parent Forum of Scotland. The government will be engaging with Connect, a different parents' group to establish a new National Parent Panel. More information will follow from P. Smith in due course.</p>	
3	<p>AOB</p> <p><u>School Communication</u> A few parents highlighted issues with receiving messages saying their young person is not in school when they are. The school's Senior Leadership Team is aware of this and agreed there are some anomalies around their lateness/attendance policy. M. Stewart/B. Millar also highlighted the disruption caused by latecomers to classes. They need help and support from parents to improve this. On average 24 days are lost per calendar year. The school is looking into 'Learning Payback Time.'</p> <p><u>Application and Appointment Process of School Captains</u> The lack of male School Captain appointments has been brought to the attention of the school. This led to a discussion about the whole</p>	

	<p>application/appointment process. Perhaps what young people have done for the school should be included in this selection process. It was agreed by everyone this is worth reviewing to perhaps include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a clear timeline of the whole process for young people and parents • offering support for filling out application form • mock interviews • how to answer interview questions 		
4	<p>School Sports</p> <p>The school confirmed Junior Sports Day runs during study leave but there is no Senior Sports Day; this is due to capacity as it is more difficult to release staff - how would classes be covered, and Sports Day supervised? M. Mcleod has spoken to Chairs in other Dundee secondary schools and the same problems keep coming up – resourcing the day and seniors truants (many see it as a half day.). Participation levels have also dropped and there’s hardly any spectators. This will be discussed at the next Curriculum Network meeting to see if anything can be taken forward.</p> <p>B. Millar highlighted there are opportunities for young people to take part in different sports after school and during lunchtime.</p>		
5	<p>Rights Respecting School/Pupil Voice</p> <p>Members of Harris Pupil Voice spoke about the school’s journey to becoming a Silver Rights Respecting School. They raised awareness of the impacts and importance of this programme as well as how pupils and staff support one another as they embed the UNCRC throughout the school environment.</p> <p>The Pupil Voice also organised a Pyjama Party for S1-S3 which was a great success.</p> <p>Their School Culture Day event is being organised for the end of term (28.06.2024.) This event is linked to articles from the Convention of the Rights of the Child.</p>		
6	<p>Head Teacher/SLT Update</p> <p><u>School Improvement Plan</u></p> <p>B. Millar distributed the School Improvement Plan’s draft priorities.</p> <p><u>Changes to Guidance Structure</u></p> <p>Birnam – Mrs McDonald Cawdor – Ms Chacko Forres – Mr Perry Kinloch – Mr Stewart</p> <p><u>Anti-Bullying Survey</u></p> <p>There were 1100 responses from young people.</p>		

Staff Survey

This is going to be published in August 2024.

Respect Me Policy

An information evening for interested parents is going to be organised in the next academic year.

Child Protection Policy

An improved tracking policy is being developed for this.

New School Captains

Darci Reid and Inaaya Ishaq are Harris' new School Captains. There were 12 exceptional candidates.

Building Issues

Ongoing.

The school's heating and ventilation systems are now fully functioning. The school has still not recovered from last October's storm. with a significant amount of decoration still to be tackled. Robertsons is on-site.

Staffing

Ongoing.

Mr Beattie has been appointed to the post of Depute Head Teacher at Baldrigon Academy, Mrs McKinlay has returned to her Head of PE post and Mr Perry has returned to Head of Forres.

Prize Giving

This will take place on 27.06.2024 at the Whitehall Theatre.

Parent Portal

This is currently being rolled out to all year groups. This is a digital service providing direct communication to parents and carers through a selection of online services (absences, attendance, permission slips, report cards to name but a few.) However, if parents have concerns, they should still contact the school and they will pass onto Guidance staff.