Minute of Harris Academy Parent Voice Meeting

Date 26 August 2025, 7:00pm

**Attendance:**    
Lisa Melrose, Philip Michael, Alberto Gonzales, Ube Christelle, Ibe Alex, Pedro Ruisanchez, Kellie Bayliss, Alaa Garad, Jamie Smith, Nasim, M. Mamun, Lili King, Aliya Kashif, Susan Mitchell, Rami Ghazi, Rasiks Niroshani, David Okwuadigbo, Olayide John Fadahunsi, Prasad Jalagam, Cllr. Michel Crichton, PGK. Raghavendra, Jill Murray, Helen Leigh, Mounika, Kirsty Craig, Kathleen Zwart, Jan Low, Louise Reid, Zo Morrison, Bukky Adeols, Carri Petrie, Sharon Methven, Olaniran Akinola, Mark Stewart, Ayodeji Kushigbagbe

**Apologies:**Clare Webster, Lucy Hay

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| 1 | **Welcome and Introductions**    Mr Miller welcomed everyone to the first Parent/Carer Voice of the year. He explained it was the Annual General Meeting and he would Chair the meeting to supervise the election of office bearers. He commented how delighted he was to see the number of parents and carers who were attending this first meeting.  Matters Arising  No minute was taken of the last AGM.  Mr Miller provided his Headteacher’s Report (TO BE Attached). Murray McLeod the former Chair will also provide a report which will be shared. |  |
| 2 | **Chair’s Update**  Attach Copy of Murray’s Report |  |
| 3 | **Appointment of Office Bearers**  Appointment of Office Bearers for the coming year was confirmed as follows:  Chair – Lisa Melrose Proposed and Seconded  Vice Chair – Claire Webster Proposed and Seconded  Vice Chair – Mr Alaa Garad Proposed and Seconded  Clerk – Kirsty Craig Proposed and Seconded  The meeting was then handed over to Lisa to Chair.  Lisa outlined the key responsibilities of the Parent/Carer Voice. Represent the parent voice with the teachers and Local Authority. Improve Partnerships and Relationships within the school Community and beyond. Discussing and providing our view on a broad range of topics such as curriculum, homework, teaching etc. We want to ensure that our voices as parents are heard and acted upon leading to an improved school. Lisa’s vision is to take the school forward and striving to help the school achieve excellence – we need more people to attend the meeting and to be representative of the pupils and school we represent. To achieve this we hope to support better communication, via Padlet, but we would love to see you continue to attend our meetings – 4/5 per year. Would also like you to put the word out to your friends who have young people at this school. Increase accessibility to meetings – potentially a hybrid option for people wo could dial in from home and be involved. Parent Voice representation at school events being more visible. Build relationships with feeder school PTAs – perhaps getting involved in the last P7 meeting of the year and get them involved even before their young people start in S1.  So how do we do this? Surveying the parent body and facilitating smaller groups to discuss the feedback and then come to the Parent Voice Meeting with proposals.  Would like to also work more closely with the Pupil Voice – they have their own views and opinions about what they want to achieve for the school this year. Community events – more fun environments to bring the whole school community together.  The Parent Voice allows you to hear directly from Mr Miller and members of his team – he has been very honest and open with the Parent Voice and it is hugely reassuring to be able to hear facts and ask questions about any matters that concern you and your children’s school. |  |
| 4 | **School Captain’s Update**  Cian Birse and Ella Cowie  Looking to have effective engagement with the whole school focusing on younger groups of pupils all the way through the school. Captain’s will be considering how they can support pupil engagement out with the classroom and teaching environment.  Mr Miller reminded the Parent/Carer Voice of the rigorous process that the Captain’s went through and Cian and Ella gave the assembled a flavour of their interview pledges.  Kian – opportunities for all year groups, wanted to get the point across that it is much more engaging to attend events and electives focusing on things like sport, anime, set and prop design. Want other students to have these opportunities so that they can decide what they want to do.  Ella – focused on peer mentoring and how it is an effective way to focus on studies and helping each other. Ella attended this for physics and found it as an effective way to learn as well as boosting her confidence.  The Parent Voice look forward to engaging with the School Captain’s as the year progresses. |  |
| 5 | **Head Teacher’s Update**  **Head Teacher’s Update**  10th year as Head Teacher – proud of Harris as a teacher and parent. Will be as open and honest as I can about the successes and challenges of Harris Academy. Pre-Agenda Meeting a week prior to the meeting.  Individual issues – this is not the forum to raise issues concerning your children. The Head Teacher Surgery is the place to do this. 8 parents attended yesterday and all 8 concerns have been actioned and rectified.  **Staffing**  5 vacancies – 1 Chemistry teacher (interviews tomorrow)  Vacancy in Craft/Design and Technology – working to change the curriculum offer which will take a period away from S1/2 – will be replaced by a creative period and jewellery making. No applicants for vacancies in 3 other schools.  PE - temp post was filled, however will leave at October to fill a perm post.  Maths – Principal Teacher in Maths leaves to have a baby in October – we have backfill but there is an advert out.  2 Learning and Care Assistants – supporting additional needs. Awaiting PVG.  8 new staff members have been welcomed for this new term (almost 10% of staff).  Support staff network – particularly for people with mental health needs – all health and wellbeing worker posts have been ended in Dundee Schools. We have also lost MCR Pathway support (carers) – co-ordinator has left but we expect someone to join later this week. School counsellor – new company ‘Place to Be’ have joined just this week. New faces for young people who need stability.  Property Update – new fence at the top of the south playground – HMIE commented how unsafe it was. Solar Panels have now (eventually) been connected. Additional layer of security has been added to the front door – now won’t get in the front door.  Staff access system for the building, CCTV cameras are also affected. Ventilation – air conditioning – summer is always roasting due to the way it has been built. All windows are open overnight but on hot days, there is very little that can be done – Science and Social Subjects are the worst affected. We offer alternative rooms for those classes to be moved to. Ongoing issues around vandalism – property budget is less than £10k per year – financial year. It has already been spent this year on repairing fire doors, toilet doors and toilet locks. Assemblies will focus on respect of the building. Issues with young people hanging around in toilets – so teachers have been asked to walk the fine line between children’s rights and the opportunity to be out of classrooms.  School role is the highest it has been – 1447. S1 is the highest we have ever had 261 with 3 others to still join.  10 year anniversary for the school.  Taxi Rank and Bus Stops are not for parents and carers – this is a significant safety concern. Every member of SLT are out at the end of the school day. If buses can’t park where they are meant to, then it causes a log jam. We have asked Traffic Wardens to be more visible.  Buses – whilst young people are trying to find out which bus is the right one, the buses are busy. We have written to Xplore to plead with them to always provide the 86 seaters. There is an issue with children going a short distance preventing those going further – Carse of Gowrie/Dryburgh etc – from getting home. Stagecoach – similar issues with unpredictability with bus size – Mr Miller has written to them but has not yet had a reply. This is not a paid-for bus route.  Cllr Michael Crighton – reminded the Parent Carer Voice that both he and Cllr Fraser Macpherson can meet with bus companies to raise these concerns – but also anything around local communities.  Lisa to consider a letter to bus companies from the Harris Parent/Carer Voice.  Young people will never be left alone on the side of the road – they are welcome to come back into the school to make calls to parents.  Can something be done to prevent children from running out behind buses, or parents/carers from parking on the double yellow lines on side of the school. Barriers to car park don’t open until the buses have left – Mr Miller will have a look at that.  Course choice changes – been a number of changes over the last week – over 300 changes for those who did better than they expected (but also those who didn’t do so well).  Attainment – initial data suggests really strong SQA results but some of the options offered at the school don’t count towards this data (particular impact in 4th year attainment). A pass rate and A/B pass rate is below the national pattern – this is a focus for the coming year. Departmental performance ranges from positive to concerning.  School Improvement Plan is now agreed – copies available to take away | **AP – Kirsty Craig**  **AP – Lisa Melrose**  **AP – Mr Miller** |
| 6 | **Any Other Business (AOB)**  **Date of Next Meeting:**  **Thursday, 20th November 2025**  **Future Dates for Diaries: Tuesday 13th January 2026**  **Wednesday 4th March 2026**  **Tuesday, 19th May 2026** |  |