

MACKIE ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 6 SEPTEMBER 2016

PRESENT : 18 Parents

1 Teacher plus the Rector, a Local Councillor and the Clerk

Chairperson's Report

The Chairperson, Jacqui Hutchison provided a comprehensive report of the various issues which the Parent Council had debated and taken action on during the year.

Jacqui paid tribute to retiring members Lynn Howden, Pam Kelly, Kathy Quinn and Gillian Wishart, all long-serving members of the Parent Council, and advised that she had thanked them individually for their contributions to, and efforts on behalf of, the Parent Council. Jacqui also thanked Cllr Christie for his support of the Council during the year, particularly in relation to the litter issue which had been effectively resolved.

Jacqui thanked the Rector for the part she had played in ensuring that a worthwhile partnership has developed between the school and the Council and also the various staff members who had attended meetings to report on specific topics, as well as Faculty Heads for their contribution to the Parent Council/Faculty Head evening. It was agreed that it would be worthwhile to repeat the Faculty Head evening and Louise Moir (Rector) suggested a possible focus for that evening.

Jacqui also extended thanks to Gillian Wishart for her efforts re the Curtain Walling project and, with Alan Tullock, on the parental expertise database.

In relation to ongoing issues, Jacqui advised that she will continue to follow up on refurbishment of the swimming pool area, and on the bus service from Johnshaven. Isobel Townsend offered to attend any meeting on the latter subject.

Jacqui stressed that the Parent Council should be visible, approachable and representative and this is another area where efforts will be focused. She underlined that parents must be made aware that they can attend parent council meetings and can suggest topics. To raise the profile of the Parent Council attendance at parents evenings will be useful and the twitter account will be promoted. Any other ideas to raise the profile will be welcomed.

Rector's Report

Louise provided a detailed report, for each Faculty, on staff changes which included arrivals, departures and changes.

She pointed out that there was now a good mix of experienced, and new, staff and highlighted that staff had worked very hard in what had been a difficult year in several areas.

Louise also presented information on the exam results, which all agreed were excellent, and answered questions on various topics, to the satisfaction of those present.

Financial Statement

Rhona Grant (Clerk) advised that an up-to-date financial statement will be provided at the first meeting of the new Council, by which time a bank statement will be obtained.

Topics for Discussion

The following items were suggested for debate in the new Parent Council year:

- Parent Council being representative of the parent body
- Prize-giving – to recognise effort as well as attainment
- Clarity re pupils being able to study 7 subjects
- Variations in learning outcomes
- Named person – watching brief
- Estates strategy
- Gender balance in subjects
- Parental expectations/parental support of education
- Parental engagement re How Good is our School

Election of Office Bearers

Rhona invited nominations for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Jacqui was unanimously re-elected as Chairperson and, Vicky McGillivray having indicated her intention to step down, Rachel Shanks was unanimously elected as Vice Chairperson.

Date of next Meeting

The first meeting of the new Parent Council was scheduled for 5 October. It was noted that meeting dates for the year will be set and details provided with the agenda for the meeting in October. (*Please see below.*)

Wednesday 5 October 2016

Tuesday 6 December 2016

Wednesday 1 February 2017

Tues 25 April 2017

Wed 28th June 2017