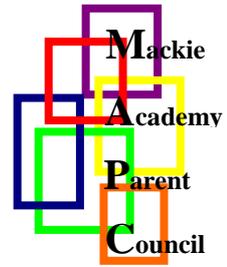


Meeting of Mackie Academy Parent Council



Tuesday 19 September 2017

PRESENT: Sonia Cooper, Paula Durward, Andy Forster, Rhona Grant (Clerk), Fiona Harris, Carol Howie, Kim Milton, Billy Morrison, Teresa Mugford, Lisa Macaulay, Michelle McGill, Aileen McKellar, Victoria Park, Karen Perks, Keith Petrie, Fiona Ritchie, Rachel Shanks

APOLOGIES: Katie Bannister, Morag Coull, Lynn Howden, Elaine Kininmonth, Sheila Lees, Dawn Milroy, Louise Moir, Vicky McGillivray, Marc Nunn, Lesley Tullock

WELCOME

Rachel Shanks welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were noted. Rachel explained that Louise had been unable to attend tonight's meeting because of a prior engagement. It had been intended that Alan Tullock would represent the school but unfortunately he had suffered a family bereavement and it had been too short notice for another member of the Senior Management Team to attend.

OFFICE-BEARERS

There being no other volunteers to take on the role of Chairperson, Rachel agreed to take on the position on the understanding that it would be for one year only. Kim Milton volunteered to act as Vice Chairperson and Karen Perks undertook responsibility for the Twitter account. It was agreed that Rhona Grant would continue to act as Clerk.

MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 21 June, were approved.

MATTERS ARISING

All matters arising were covered in the agenda of the meeting.

SCHOOL BUSINESS

Learning and Teaching : The Way Forward

It was reported that an S1 Parents Evening had been held the previous week. Those parents who had attended voiced the opinion that it had been informative and worthwhile. Parents mentioned that it would have been useful to have had an explanation of the chart with colour coding that was displayed on the big screen.

The Big Conversation

It was noted that Aberdeenshire council had, as intended, issued their survey to parents. It was agreed that it would be worthwhile to put out a reminder and encourage parents to participate.

AGM ISSUES

It was agreed that the following issues would be carried forward:

1. To get clarification in relation to the request for a monetary contribution to practical elements for some subjects. It was suggested that in future years it would be helpful to have this covered in P7/S1 transition information.
2. To query how new housing developments will affect the roll at Mackie and whether there will be any planning gain.
3. To keep on the agenda the idea for a Parent Council Award to an outstanding member of staff, whilst recognising the inherent difficulty in singling out just one member of staff.
4. To request an update on the Duke of Edinburgh Award situation, including who is dealing with it and what are the expectations of the school.
5. To see if it was possible to have mental health counsellors in school, for example paid for from the Pupil Equity Fund.
6. To request the attendance of an Aberdeenshire Councillor at Parent Council meetings.
7. To check when the school sends out texts/emails/letters to parents. It was suggested that it would be helpful to be able to contact class teachers direct, rather than having to go through the PSAT/Guidance Teacher. Not all parents were aware that Guidance Teachers were contactable by email or where to get their email addresses. Consensus was that email was the best way to contact parents. It appeared that the Who's Who section on the school website was empty. Rachel noted that it is possible to respond to a teacher via Show My Homework. Fiona (Ritchie) queried if the traffic-light system was a new feature on Show My Homework this year. It was mentioned that Show My Homework depends on broadband width. It appears to be used differently by different teachers with some asking for attachments to be uploaded and others asking for work to be printed out at home in colour.

AOB

1. Billy Morris asked about the situation in relation to Physics teachers and it was advised that this had been resolved.
2. It was noted that water bottles is an ongoing issue and it was agreed that an update would be helpful. It was decided that environmental issues should be a standing item on the agenda of every meeting.
3. Fiona (Harris) suggested that parents come back to the next meeting with suggestions for priorities to consider during the year, and from the School Improvement Plan we can establish what the school's priorities are.
4. It was reported that girls had been seen running across the dual carriage way playing 'chicken'.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was provisionally scheduled for 8 November, but it clashed with a school event and accordingly was brought forward to 1 November.