

# Meeting of Mackie Academy Parent Council

**Tuesday 27 November 2018**

**PRESENT:** Dawn Black, Sonia Cooper, Lorna Findlay, Andrea Forster, Rhona Grant (Clerk), Fiona Hogg, Carol Howie, Dawn Milroy, Kim Milton, Louise Moir (Head Teacher), Teresa Mugford, Aileen McKellar

**APOLOGIES:** Morag Coull, Cllr Sarah Dickinson, Paula Durward, Fiona Harris, Chris Ann Holt, Elaine Mitchell, Marion Montgomery, Karen MacAngus, Lisa Macaulay, Michelle McGill, Allison McIntyre, Marc Nunn, Karen Perks; Fiona Ritchie, Margaret Sweetnam, Lesley Tullock

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Laura Larkworthy and Fiona Stark (Depute Head Teachers)

## 1. WELCOME

At short notice, Kim Milton (Vice Chair) agreed to chair the meeting. Kim welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies for absence were noted.

## 2. ANTI-BULLYING POLICY UPDATE

Louise Moir (Head Teacher) introduced Laura Larkworthy and Fiona Stark and provided details of their respective remit as Depute Head Teachers within the school.

Laura and Fiona gave a comprehensive presentation on their progress thus far in updating the school's anti-bullying policy. It was explained that they had begun by looking at national and local guidelines, including legal information which had to be included in the policy.

The draft document was tabled and Laura and Fiona highlighted salient points on each page. They indicated that they would welcome feedback from the Parent Council and it was agreed that it should be emailed to members, who could then provide feedback direct to Laura and Fiona, should they so wish.

It was advised that the draft had been presented to the pupils' focus groups, and it was obvious that they had studied it well as they had responded with detailed feedback. The teaching staff will also be asked for their input.

The Rights Respecting School format, and the processes within Restorative Practices were explained, for the benefit of new parent members.

Teresa Mugford enquired if a Crisis Box is available to pupils. It was explained that something similar is available to pupils and there is also a dedicated phone line where pupils can leave a voice or text message, which is monitored every morning. Dawn Milroy commended this and suggested raising awareness of it. Louise undertook to do so, but pointed out that it would be underlined that it is not for parents' use and details were being provided for information purposes.

Louise also indicated the importance of parents' understanding of where the school's responsibility ends. For instance, if something occurs outwith the school day, or via social media, the school will be supportive to pupils and parents but cannot take any action.

Louise said that it is recognised that both offender and offeree will need support but the school will be cautious to ensure it is not drawn into a contentious situation outwith its jurisdiction. Laura said that it is preferable that the appropriate agency deals with a situation and, for example, a Police Concern Report can be a powerful deterrent in itself.

### **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 10 October 2018, were approved.

### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr Dickinson had been unable to attend this meeting, but she had provided details of the feedback received in response to the queries she had undertaken to raise with relevant parties. This information had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

#### **Water Fountains**

Louise reported that the contractors had attended at the school in relation to the water fountains and the necessary plumbing work has been completed. However it had then transpired that a separate purchase order was required for the sub-contractor to supply and install the machines, leading to a further delay in the fountains being installed.

#### **Leaking Roof**

Louise advised that the issue of the leaking roof has still to be resolved. An initial quote from FES of £55,000 had been submitted and accordingly Property Dept staff had returned to have a further look at the problem. Whilst no specific survey has been undertaken to ascertain where the water is coming in, it was hoped that sealant could be all that is required, and this will be tried in the first place to see if it solves the problem. Dawn Milroy pointed out the safety risks, where the water is getting in near electric sockets etc.

Louise stressed that Cllr Dickinson has been tenacious in asking pertinent questions and seeking definitive answers, but in the meantime future planning is being held up by the various delays in getting any work carried out. It was agreed that the contractor does not seem to grasp that fact. Louise said that when the workmen attend at the school there are no problems with their work, but there appears to be a level of organisation and co-ordination that is missing. There is also the added factor of the complicated property system. Dawn M asked who the point of contact is at the Property Dept and Louise advised that it is the Head of Property – Alan Whyte.

### **5. SCHOOL BUSINESS**

#### **Insight Summary**

Louise provided an introduction to Insight which is an on-line tool used in Education across Scotland, and the data from which provides key information on various areas, including Literacy & Numeracy, Positive Destinations, Attainment for all and Attainment -v- Deprivation, from the data contained therein.

A summary had been circulated prior to the meeting and Louise highlighted the salient points in each diagram as it relates to Mackie and explained in detail the significance of each set of figures. She also explained the anomalies that occur, for example some schools offering 8 qualifications, and how that affects the data collated. In relation to curriculum design, Louise said that consideration is being given to broadening out the seventh subject option to include an SQA in Mental Health & Wellbeing. Thought is also being given to offering an NPA for Drama which is still a Level 6 Award. Louise stressed that staff know their students well and work hard to ensure that they are presented for examinations at the best level for them. There is also collaboration between the faculties; for example the Faculty Head of English is assisting with the coursework for Higher PE.

In respect of Attainment -v-Deprivation, Mackie only has a handful of applicable pupils. Louise pointed out that the measure is misleading for the North East of Scotland in that generally speaking wages are higher but that does not necessarily equate to being educationally wealthy.

Louise advised that she will be able to provide the latest update at the January meeting.

### **Staffing**

Louise provided a comprehensive update of staffing movements in each faculty.

For the sake of time, it was decided that other agenda items would be carried forward to a future meeting.

### **7. CHAIR OF NEXT MEETING**

As previously agreed, the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 16 January. Dawn Black volunteered to chair that meeting.