

Perth Academy Parent Council Hybrid AGM

Minute of Meeting on Wednesday 13 September 2023 7pm-8pm

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

The Chair welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

Attendees in person:

Calum Alsmeyer
Cllr Liz Barrett
Liz Barron-Majerik
Sarah Braithwaite
Lindsay Davidson (Vice-Chair)
Stacy Dornan
Catherine Escott
Emma Gerrard
Madelaine Gorton
Laura Gummon
Lesley Joyce (Minute Clerk)
Kirsty Kettles
Gillian Laing
Gordy Mackay
Rebecca Mackay (Chair)
Vivienne Mackinnon
George Mailer
Emma Milne
Eleanor Paul (Head Teacher)
Irene Robertson
Sarah Sloan (Treasurer)
Emma Smith
Eleanor Stamp
Elaine Wallace

Attendees online:

Kristyna Bilena
Iona Johnston
Lyn Manzie
Cllr Sheila McCole
Jenny Mills
Elinor Moses
Janet Ross
Mary Stanger
Fiona (guest)

Apologies

Charlotte Roach (Head Prefect)
Hanna Braithwaite (Head Prefect)

2. Feedback on exam results and attainment

Mrs Paul presented data on key performance indicators currently available. Results associated with Perth College and provision not certificated by SQA would be known at a later date. Insight, the national tool for attainment data, is updated later in September. A year-on-year comparison is not possible because of disruption to teaching and learning, assessment and certification in recent years. However, data currently available showed a strong attainment profile for 2022/23 with all but two measurements showing an improvement on last year, both of those being higher than the Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) average. Mrs Paul advised that the school is aiming to capture everyone at Level 3 for numeracy and literacy to safeguard attainment – both those subjects being regarded as particularly important. Mrs Paul took this opportunity to thank the PC for the donation last year of new texts for pupils.

A range of Level 5 and level 6 courses were delivered in partnership with Perth College last year (H Psychology and H Criminology) as well as NPAs (Football Coaching and Sports

Leadership) the latter which are equivalent to Higher, carry the same number of points, and are promoted by the school with parity of esteem.

Mrs Paul summarised the process to review attainment across departments to inform teaching and learning approaches and contribute to the School Improvement Plan with a view to ensuring consistently good (or better) high quality learning, empowering leadership at all levels, raising attainment and achievement, and improving inclusive practice and relationships across the school.

Highlights shared:

Strong and growing English department (highest number of presentations)

PE, Science and Computing Science departments excellent results

Many departments achieving 90% or above for pass rates in N5 and H

Significant increase in pupils achieving 5 @ L3.

Processes in the school:

Attainment Scrutiny

Attainment meeting with each Principal Teacher

Analysis

Estimates v Actual

Teacher performance patterns

No awards

Action Points – Departmental improvement plan, early intervention and TAL

Mid Year Review

L&T visit and validation

Self evaluation reviews

3. Questions

Mrs Paul advised that a summary of attainment data is shared with pupils and that there is a return to full syllabi this year across all subjects. One attendee asked if pupil onward destinations were tracked. Mrs Paul confirmed this and expressed enthusiasm for the maintenance of contact with former pupils advising that inviting former pupils to come to the school to talk to current pupils had shown to be beneficial to exemplify career pathways and opportunities. Another attendee asked how best might the PC show gratitude to the teachers for going the extra mile and giving their everything. Mrs Paul advised that the end of term card with comments from parents and the strawberry tarts are appreciated greatly.

4. Chair Update

The Chair began by saying that all attendees should have received an update report from the Head Prefects. The Chair also advised that Miss Montgomery (Principal Teacher of Computing Dept) wanted to thank all parents for the strawberry tarts and card for staff given by the PC (on behalf of parents and carers) at the end of last session. They were very much appreciated.

The Chair expressed appreciation to Jennifer McGregor for her years of serving on the PC and for sharing her skills, experience and advice. A bouquet of flowers had been purchased for Jennifer.

Calum Alsmeyer, Stacy Dornan and Emma Gerrard had been nominated as new members and these were seconded at the meeting by Irene Robertson and Madelaine Gorton.

A slight change to the Constitution had been proposed to reflect the new vision and values of the school leaving the overall aims unchanged. Support for the proposed change was achieved through members voting and a copy of the Constitution is available on the school's website. Also on the topic of the Constitution, the Chair reminded that the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair and treasurer should be reviewed every three years so it may be prudent to consider arrangements for 'shadowing' to take place to ensure smooth transitions for these positions when the time comes.

5. Head Teacher's Space

Mrs Paul updated on the staffing situation with regard to teacher attendance and well-being. Two Deputy Head Teachers are currently absent from school and Mrs McGregor (Principal Teacher of Guidance) will now be on long-term absence. There are many opportunities and activities focusing on staff well-being to try to reduce absences and Mrs Paul is diligent in ensuring supporting health and wellbeing processes are followed to provide support and challenge to ensure that every effort is made to improve staff attendance.

Head Prefects have done a great job already, voting for Charity of the Year is currently underway and Litter Pick arrangements are being supported by Cllr Liz Barrett.

In response to a question about Report Cards, Mrs Paul advised that 3 tracking reports are provided each year and one of three reports for each child will contain written comments. Regarding Parents' Evening events, the school aims to assist parents with guidance around the school and advised parents to contact the school office to arrange any specific appointments.

6. Items raised by parents

Some parents had mentioned the 6th year Common Room to the Chair raising concerns and asking what they could do to help improve it. Mrs Paul advised that it had been refurbished in 2020 but that unfortunately it gets vandalised every year. Recently efforts have been made with the carpet cleaned, some furniture removed, and a kind offer of sofas has been made by a parent. Feedback on improvements hope to be given by head prefects in the next PC meeting.

7. Opportunities for Parents

The Chair advised that members of the PC are under no obligation to volunteer for any activities beyond attending meetings although there are some opportunities for members who may like to be involved. For example:

Social Media A Facebook page for the PC is in existence and we would welcome any member interested in helping out with this, or taking the lead in using other social media platforms such as Snapchat, Instagram and/or redeveloping a new Facebook page if these options are preferred.

Open Doors Day The school is opening to the public 10am-1pm on Saturday 16 September and Miss Tarbert (Chemistry Teacher), who is one of the organisers, would be delighted to have some parent helpers. The Chair also invited members to attend with family/friends if they would like a tour by pupils and also to learn about some of the history of the school.

Relationship Sexual Health and Parenting (RSHP) Policy A national consultation is currently underway for a revised policy. The Chair will be attending a focus group for PC Chairs next week and invited attendees to get in touch with her to convey views that they would like to be shared at the meeting. The consultation will run until the end of November. A parent asked if the consultation link could be sent to the parent forum.

Lindsay Davidson also raised the opportunity for a parent to lead on **Fundraising**. Cllr McCole advised of the existence of a list of funding bodies. Attendees were encouraged to similarly let the Chair know as opportunities arise. The school is in receipt of funds from PKC, having received £800 for the 2022/23 school year, and the Chair hoped that the Parent Council survey results would highlight areas to prioritise.

Attendees were invited to help themselves to a selection of used study books which had been donated by a PC member.

8. Close

The Chair closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending the meeting, in person and online, and for their contributions to the discussions. She also invited parents and carers to get in touch with any ideas, concerns or encouragements that come up before the next meeting which is scheduled for 7-8pm on 15 November 2023