



Turriff Academy Parent Council

MONDAY 13.03.2017

7 pm Turriff Academy

PRESENT:

Lee Menzies - Rector
Jane Bissett - Teacher Rep
Carol Walker - Parent Rep.
Fleur Barron - Parent Rep.
Carol Allan - Parent Rep.
Cllr Duncan

Karen Wiseman - Secretary
Alan Chalmers - Parent Rep.
Sam James - Vice Chair & Treasurer
Lynn Chambers - Chairperson
Cara Cark - Parent Rep.
Sandy McCaskill - Community Rep.

Daniel & Callum - Pupil Reps.

PARENT COUNCIL MINUTES

1. WELCOME

Lynn welcomed all attending the meeting tonight.

2. APOLOGIES

Cllr Robertson, Cllr Norrie, Fiona McRitchie, Wendy Sleigh,

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - 6th February 2017

no.3 - Alan Chalmers not Chambers and no. 7 S1-S2 and S3-S6

Proposed by Sam James and Seconded by Fleur Barron

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Community Rep Sandy McCaskill attending tonight - was welcomed to meeting by Lee.

ICT started to be distributed - were sent wrong casing for iPads so waiting till correct ones arrive before handing out.

Lee will contact SPTC for a date to meet.

Pool - 1st year is organised for the 1st years. Will start in August 2017 till Easter 2018 on a Thursday morning (6-8 week block) Hopefully this will expand to other years. Looking into life saving courses for older years, this would be a good qualification to have.

Musician of the year is 22.03.2017

5. PUPILS REPORT

Been a reasonably quiet term due to Prelims which are now building up to exams in May.

LGBT assembly held 2 weeks ago. Two 6th year girls spoke re homophobia.

World Book Day - Library had book trailers showing and could also listen to audio books on the iPads.

Rock Challenge is on 25.03.2017

A 3rd year pupil is raising money for neurological charities - held a head shave at the academy which raised £600.00

Fairtrade Fortnight was held where junior classes held a tuck shop and a quiz where the prize was Fairtrade easter eggs.

6. RECTORS REPORT

Lee wanted to start her report with the serious incident which occurred at the academy on Thursday 9th March where a fight had broken out within the school grounds. This had been filmed and then distributed. The incident was dealt with quickly and efficiently in line with school and Aberdeenshire Council Guidelines. Police Scotland were also contacted. The academy held assemblies to raise the awareness of social media & to reiterate to all pupils how important it is to report any problems/bullying to the teachers.

There has been e-mails and phone calls from concerned parents with regards to the situation. Police had asked all parents to ensure their children had removed the video from their phones and any social media sites they may have put them up on too.

The P&J reported a story on Monday 13th March but had not approached the school for any information and had used social media and information on website to complete their story.

There is supervision within the school at lunchtimes but not the playground.

Turriff Academy is going to be involved in a programme to help young people do the right thing when instances such as this occur. This is known as the Mentor in Violence Prevention Programme (MVP) which tackles all aspects of behaviours that can cause harm. <http://mvpscotland.org.uk/>

Turriff Academy is in Phase 2 of this which will be held on 27th and 28th March. It is a 2 day course held in Mintlaw. There will be 3 staff members, 2 sixth year pupils, Colin McRae, a representative from Markethill School, our community Rep Sandy and our chair Lynn Chambers. This is to empower kids to stand back within situations and know it is wrong to fight back and to be able to take the appropriate action when faced with a situation.

STAFFING

- Our appointed Modern Languages teacher was not released from her previous school so can no longer join Turriff
- Miss Whyte and Madam Grenet are coming in to make sure everything is on target for pupils doing assessments/exams.
- We have appointed 3 permanent members of staff:
- Biology - Miss McConnachie
- Music - Miss Sharp
- Technical - Emma Raffle
- Adverts will go out for other jobs - requiring SFL staff

BUILDING WORKS

Steel arrived where the work has now started. Still quite slow going and completion hopefully 30 June 2017.

Platform lifts starting next week. (w/c 20/3)

Vincent Docherty is to look at the rest of the building to identify other areas for improvement. They are surveying whats called the curtain wall and hopefully start windows quickly.

Communication

It is hoped to hold a Headteacher parent drop in session in May.

We are looking at holding another engagement event with parents re social media in June.

Transition

P7 transition in progress with all forms been handed out to Primary Schools. Lee is going to Loch Insh as it was helpful last year for the P7's knowing who she is. P7 link wk is Tues 13June for 4 days.

Curriculum Choices

Jane then spoke re the curriculum choices:

S3 pupils have made their choices
S4-S5 and S6 are in the process of making choices
S1-S2 are still to be done.

Once all choices are in Jane can get going to create the time table.

7. UNIFORM

Lynn brought up the non cooperation of some pupils wearing uniform. Sees lots of boys with multi coloured shoes and not the specified black or white. Girls wearing leggings or leather look trousers. Leggings are allowed but only with a skirt.

Lee advised a spot check had been done 2 weeks prior where were actually very few not in uniform. 15 pupils in total out of the whole S1 - S6 assemblies didn't pass the dress code.

Girls have been challenging with hoodies but have seemed to got this under control.

Lee will look into Lynn's concerns.

8. E-MAIL ADDRESS

Lynn received an e-mail from Bob Jones (parent forum for our area) and Donna Wilson (parental involvement officer) concerned that we do not have a set parent council e-mail address.

Lynn has set this up turriffacademypc@hotmail.com

9. HEADINGS & INFO - SCHOOL WEBSITE

Lynn requesting there is a link from the TA website for the parent council. A tab will be put under the Parents link. Minutes and Agenda's will go onto their too. Jane gave Karen the e-mail to send it to for this to happen.

There is a flag counter on the website to show which countries are looking at it. Makes interesting viewing.

10. COMMUNITY REP.

Sandy McCaskill joined us tonight for his first parent council meeting. He is a member of a large number of community committees.

He advised us on the numerous things that will be going on within the community such as the Rotary setting up a junior rotary group within the primary schools. This has been successful with a quiz being held which was decided and organised by the primary children. (Rotarac)

Community Council supports everything within the community. All community groups intermingle with each other and lots of the members are involved within all the groups.

They are lacking in teenagers - he went on to speak about his experience whilst living in Norway.

The Rotary are looking into an international student exchange programme for final year students.

He went on to inform us of the Haughs Development and what they are hoping for. They are getting lighting put up and the pond drained, cleaned and re-filled with the paths also being updated. There has been a notice board put up which will inform the community of progress and things going on. They are hoping to make a 5k and 3k running track between the Den and the Haughs with no steps for disabled and parents with pushchairs.

They are aiming for a multi million pound building with coffee shop, multi purpose rooms etc.

They are wanting the All Weather Surface relaid with mini pitches. The tennis club asked if they could move down but its quite close already so will just be re-developed where it is.

The caravan park is going to be extended by 4 caravan pitches in 2017 and another 6 in 2018.

More events are going to be held with some already being organised.

Tractor Pulling will be 18th and 19th August.
Rally for vintage motors in May.
Music Festivals for the future.

Meetings will be held and children are more than welcome to have their input and help.

It is known to all groups how Turriff Academy are undersold in terms of sports facilities.

Cara Clark brought up the Winter Wonderland that Samantha Lima has started looking into and created a committee for. It is to be held in November for 2 days.

Letters have been sent out to schools to see if they have groups that would like to take part i.e choirs, Rock Challenge etc... Jane will speak to the music department. There is a meeting being held on 16.3.17 for people to attend. Will be a large amount required by fundraising and Miss Lima is organising a variety of things for this.

11. UPDATE FROM P.T.A

Quiz was held and this was not well supported - only 5 tables sold. Maybe £100 made. The reasons for this were then discussed and ways at looking to improve this in the future could be for people to reserve tables directly at the Football Club.

A bingo night is being held on 16.6.17 (to include P7 for transition purposes) - Angie is sorting the use of the Academy Hall.

Coffee morning booked for 9.9.17 at the legion.

Stall on May day - face painting/plants for sale/home bakes/toffee. Global rock will get a donation if they get through to the next stage. Will be a drawing competition for pre-school to P7.

PTA balance is £2494.16 with the ice cream to be paid which is £238 (lee advised we will get a voucher as the freezer broke and ice cream melted)

Next PTA meeting is 16.3.17 6.30 pm

12. CORRESPONDANCE

Leaflet from Back Chat (SPTC) - this can be viewed online. A link will be put on the website.

13. TREASURERS REPORT

Balance £634.29 (£50 clerk fees to come off this for March meeting)

14. MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED

No matters raised

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - MONDAY 8TH MAY 2017