

PARENT COUNCIL

PRESENT: Carol Walker, Audrey Michie, Kirsteen MacGillivray, Jane Bisset, Lee Menzies, Irene Birtwhistle, Shirley Anderson, Cllr. Ian Taylor, Ashley Strachan, Alan Chalmers, Carol Allan, Niamh Gibson, Cllr. Alastair Forsyth,

Apologies: Fleur Barron, Cllr. Anne Stirling

DATE OF MEETING: 5th October 2020

	NOTES	ACTION
1	<p>Carol Walker welcomed all to the October Parent Council meeting. She thanked members for responding over the weekend to the National Parent Forum of Scotland questions that had been put out at very short notice. She confirmed that Irene would be attending the Council's meeting about Flexi-schooling later this week.</p>	
2	<p>Adoption of Previous Minutes Proposed: Ashley Strachan Seconded: Shirley Anderson</p>	
3	<p>Matters Arising No matters were arising from the previous minutes, save for a reminder on the reintroduction of homework emails</p>	

	<p>and texts.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Headteachers Report</p> <p>Margaret Ramage is retiring at Christmas, the recruitment process has started to fill her Principal Teacher of ASL post.</p> <p>A new post funded by the Scottish Government is being introduced: the Principal Teacher of Recovery and Equity, in response to COVID-19. Their role will be to support students in their learning. The successful candidate will keep certificate classes and carry out the responsibilities of the new post on a 50:50 basis.</p> <p>150 Chrome books were purchased for pupils to support pupils in their learning and don't have access to devices. A request for another 104 has been made.</p> <p>There is a mechanism for pupils to receive Free School meals during holiday time or when pupils are unable to come to school due to isolation or illness. LM to provide information on this process at next meeting.</p>	

	<p>SQA are meant to provide guidance about next year's exams. The update will be announced on Wednesday 7th October. An attainment meeting will be held as soon as data on INSIGHT has been updated</p> <p>Developing Scotland's Workforce aim to ensure teachers are trained to give pupils information about career opportunities, that schools provide a wide and diverse curriculum, and that young people receive support.</p> <p>Alternative, or personalised, timetables are becoming more common in Senior Phase as more college courses and courses associated with the college, such as the S3 Energy Girls course, are introduced. The school are working closely with NESCol and businesses to help pupils prepare for the world of work. Teachers need to understand how this blended learning may affect their timetables.</p> <p>To further aid pupils in their preparation for the workplace, Career Education is built in all the way through school. Examples include the opportunities to complete work experience in S4-S6.</p> <p>Businesses are providing S5-6 pupils with work experience</p>	
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	<p>in courses such as social care, nursery workers, healthcare workers, nursing, and many other courses.</p> <p>Level 4/5 Foundation Apprenticeship courses in Construction and Automotive will be provided, and centred on practical work, with businesses providing work experience.</p> <p>The school are looking to find ways and funding to make maths more engaging to pupils, such as using fun software. A program was suggested and could be trialled.</p> <p>Turriff Academy will continue with the Open University for S6 in their learning modules.</p> <p>Kate Clarke is working to resolve issues with Energy Girls being unable to use school Wi-Fi with their devices</p> <p>Jane gave a report on Developing Young Workforce initiative – see attached.</p>	
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5	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Parent Council: £1602.94</p> <p>Friends of Turriff Academy: £3167.08</p> <p>£400 still to come out of the Parent Council Account. Carol has obtained the forms from the Bank of Scotland to remove Sam as a signatory and replace her with Kirsteen. Kirsteen has collected the Treasurer's paperwork from school.</p>	
6	<p>FOTA</p> <p>Photograph competition will go ahead. Winning photos will go towards making calendars to raise money for Friends of Turriff Academy</p> <p>The suggestion to sign up to a grant locating subscription was made, to assist with helping access fundraising possibilities which will be difficult due to setbacks caused by the coronavirus. This costs £15 plus Vat for one month. Approval was given that it could be trialled for 1 month.</p> <p>Stress toys, calculators, hockey strips and electronic drum kit were requested by the school. The hockey strips have</p>	

	<p>not been approved at the moment, due to the likelihood that team sports will not be available for some time. The other items had all been approved, although cheques are still to be issued.</p> <p>The installation of the defibrillator has been agreed upon with Aberdeenshire Council, on the condition the school takes on costs of maintenance.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>Defibrillator</p> <p>Carol advised that the agreement to be signed with the Council confirms that TAPC would be responsible for all outlays in connection with the defibrillator. Stuart Gordon, who is installing the defibrillator, and will give training on its use, has advised that the costs would be replacement of the batteries (£40 - £45 currently) and the pads (£95 + Vat currently) both of which would be required after 5 years. The defibrillator itself has a 7 year warranty. Agreement from the PC that these outlays were acceptable and the Minute of Agreement with the Council could be signed on that basis.</p>	

8. SQA

There is concern that, despite advising that guidance would be produced by the end of August, nothing has been issued to date re the exam diet next year. This is worrying for staff, parents and students. Carol had taken part in a meeting with the Chairs of other Secondary school Parent Councils to discuss their views. A new date for guidance has been given as 7th Oct., and as the meeting was only held shortly before this it was decided to withhold sending a letter to voice PC concerns about the delay. A follow up meeting will be held towards the beginning of next term to discuss the guidance once it has been issued.

9. AOB

Cllr. Taylor had taken part in a community engagement event, during which the sizes of pupils' groups in terms of COVID-19 restrictions was commented on.

Elaine Brown (Formartine Area Manager) asked the school about a community warden to enforce COVID rules.

Discussions will be held with retailers to limit groups inside and outside their premises as best as possible.

The school is reinforcing the importance of wearing masks

	<p>within the school premises and the wider community</p> <p>Fyvie Primary School was nominated for Best Scots School of the Year and Fiona Mc Nab (from Fyvie PS) as Scots Teacher of the Year. Due to the small size of the school, it was requested that a poll link be placed on the Turriff Academy Facebook page to publicise this.</p> <p>Well done to pupil James won the Grampian heat for Bright Ideas challenge. He won cash for STEM programs in school and a goody bag for himself.</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>The next Parent Council Meeting will be on Monday 9th November 2020.</p>	