



# Hawick High School

# Parent Council

## Minutes – Tuesday 23rd October 2018

### Hawick High School Staff Room at 19:00 after AGM

#### Attendees

Alison Short, Lesley Nichol, Kerry Mitchel, Karen Copeland, Louise Potts, Julie Adamson, Neil Richards, Duncan Taylor, Susan Green, Morven Brown, Becca Anderson, Laura Melville, Lisa Welsh, Ally Ratcliffe, Alison Haig, Keith Morgan, Andy Maybury, Vicky Porteous.

#### Apologies

Coreen Knight, Helene Jaffrey, Sean Page, Michelle Mitchel, Lyndsay Hodgins, Wendy Paterson, George Turnbull, Sheila Cline, Ailsa Green, Evelyn Chelly

## Inclusion

Ally Ratcliffe spoke about her role and new remit: Inclusion in community, Rights, respecting schools, diversity, health and wellbeing,

She passed a PowerPoint presentation around on her role, as we were not able to use the lecture hall- all attendees got a copy.

Pupil council has started to gain interest, they feel they need a voice

We have looked for nominations, thru Hawick high news channel

Pam rugby is coming in to do training with elected pupils

There will be two pupils in each year group

Most years are fully on-board, sixth form still to engage

By 26th Nov a group should be formed, Kate riddle will take on role after Ally goes on paternity leave .

See PowerPoint presentation for more detail – this can be requested direct from the school

Types of recognition were discussed, and how best to raise the kids self-esteem, calls home, posts on school site, names up on boards.

A house system of points has slowly got going, to gain house points for school clubs, sports team attendance, after school activity

Monitoring this and keeping records up to date is time consuming, so school are looking for ways to improve this.

VP said system needs to be consistent and manageable before it widens it's sphere.

Houses were merged 4 down to 3 due to retirements in pastoral

AR said there is a 3 year vision to expand this slowly

Graeme Coburn suggested let's walk before we run!

AR said We are trying to recognise the wider influence for all pupils that often do things outside the school , 6th years for example .

Asking the pupils and parents what they think is the best way to reward kids

Mr Taylor said stars of the week are hard fought for and engage the staff as well as kids.

# Headteacher's report

VP – “things are picking up on positive note “

Next PC Meeting Bruce Aitchison Deputy Head Teacher will talk about what he's doing for links with business and curriculum .

## Staff

Have appointed Debbie Martin to position principal teacher (PT) of creative technologies

Dan fox, pastoral PT now Permanent position. Also

PT for complex needs has been appointed, pending checks

Gilliam McCollum is moving, need a new PT Maths.

one of the SLT will cover support here or deal with behaviour issues.

SBC need to help us here with relocation costs, which may now be possible, can we advertise across schools. There is still a national shortage in this area, so it is a priority area.

## School refurb

Library is now open, new furniture still due to arrive, don't have an exact time frame.

5th & 6<sup>th</sup> year can now study there.

PE changing rooms should see progress, to help in next few months.

Lots of positive events in teaching and learning, artie explorers. Olympic silver medallist in, duke box jive, mental health support first aides, young people involved in running competition, funded by school

## McMillan coffee morning

raised over £600. Two new things. HHS creative writing reviews, suggestion was made that copies could be given to doctor's surgeries, and wider community. Hairdressers and barbers, coffee shops etc.

Rotary young chef competition coming up- winner goes on to compete at regional level

Hawick high news celebrates 10-year anniversary soon.

## School area

Attainment meetings, exam performances, what can we learn, what are action plans, so all kids achieve, with all departments, and pastoral.

Meeting with SBC to discuss attainment, and where we are and how to improve moving forward.

VP said Attendance is a huge factor in young people not achieving to their potential.

PC - Need to find ways to support parents in how they get kids to attend !

Visit from Patricia Robson inspector about pace of change, she was impressed she asked is the pace of change sufficient ?

Parent asked who monitors kids who walk out of school after registering ?

VP said youth workers are trying to tackle this

Parent said some sit at the bridge.

VP said some kids are legitimately out of school, some not

Parents need to be made more aware of absences, - text messages are helping raise parental awareness.

Staff starting to engage with kids and ask why they are not attending

Need to investigate the reasons why.

Parent mentioned that an accident almost happened on street outside the school , - VP will look into this  
Lisa Welsh wants to know what the consequences on nonattendance are .

VP said no point in punishing them as they really won't turn up.

We need to change the perception of the school so kids realise they need to attend to achieve a positive future.

VP said Nonattendance of school is a parental responsibility.

Poor behaviour leads to using these safe zones. School are trying to understand why the kids behave like this, could be a whole raft reasons.

We need to try and support the kids to be in front of teachers not support youth workers to have to chase them up all the time.

School are trying to enhance the positive things going on in school.  
There will always be a disruptive element, but we need to celebrate to positive experiences that most kids have.

Are the kids feeling recognised in school?

Parent asked on school update

VP said now Donna Manson has left SB, the issue has gone quiet, and we are not sure if her role will be replaced.

Meetings have identified Gala and Hawick as most needy, but we need to wait and see what happens with her position.

AM said SBC said there have been no decisions been made presently.

## Group Exercise

What aspects of school life do parents appreciate being reported on?

What's topics should PC discuss at our meetings?

What sub groups may we set up for different issues?

Sub group discussions popped up many points

To discuss a major fund-raising event

Extended parental involvement / school improvement

Merits system sub group to feedback from parents and kids on how it works best

Former pupils should be invited to a major fund resisting event

VP said that's challenging - the longer they have left.

How do we discover achievements of past pupils.?

A post on FB page asking for past pupils, to come forward and speak to inspire kids.

Or to request a short phone video for where they answer some questions set by the PC sub group on this.

Andy suggested sub groups

1. For tracking down past pupils successes

PC should be helping more with parental routes of choice when things are not working, i.e. maths

What can parents do, what's the procedure?

Other support channels, on line leading support for parents, private tuition for kids?

Sub group - to help improve channels of communications and reporting, related to achievement.

Edmodo or glow?

## Questions

Lisa asked about schedule of events missing from school diary's

VP -Web site now has all info on schedules and activity's (Schools Calendar should be there )

Parents like positivity of heads report.

VP said staffing will always be important

DHT reports are well valued

Need to know who's speaking in advance to help attendance.

## AOB

None

## Date of next meeting

Next date Wednesday 28th Nov: staff room 6 for 6.30pm start

Andy closed meeting