


Parent Council Meeting of Cults Academy
Monday 29th April 2019 7-9pm

Attendees: David Barnett (DB) Head, Rick Sansom (Chair)(RS), Robert Brew (Secretary)(RB), Tony Brady (TB), Jim Gauld (JG), Ros Harper, Tahar Kouider, Daniel Verhamme (Treasurer) (DV),

Attendees: Vannin Bloch (VB), Martin Barker, Gill Flett, Liz Horgan

| Agenda items | <u>Updates and discussions</u> | Action |
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| 1. | <p><u>Introductions, welcome, apologies</u></p> <p>Tahar Kouider and Jim Gauld gave notice that they will be stepping down from the Parent Council</p> <p>RS ran through the actions:</p> <p>DB to seek clarification from the Council on staffing numbers – <i>allocation for next academic year likely to be 73.6 FTE based on a projected pupil role of 1048. This number is yet to be finalised and represents a deterioration of the pupil-teacher ratio from 14.0 pupils to 14.23 per teacher.</i></p> <p>RB to issue draft minutes by email between meetings and PC members to approve by email – <i>minutes approved – closed</i></p> <p>PC to write second letter to Derek Sansom to seek better understand timing of process and ask if additional allocated teachers could be provided to Cults Academy as an interim measure PC to write to Angela Scott, Eleanor Sheppard and Education Convenor, John Wheeler, with a version of the letter previously sent to Derek Samson – <i>email issued to Eleanor Shepherd highlighting the under-allocation of staff to Cults Academy and the practical problems this creates – post-meeting update – Derek Samson replied on behalf of Eleanor Shepherd stating that Cults Academy would receive an increased staff allocation in the forthcoming year (i.e. the 73.6 FTE noted above), along with some counter-arguments to the practical issues raised by the Parent Council. A response will be drafted.</i></p> <p>TB/KG/DB to schedule a separate meeting to discuss how best to use LinkedIn – <i>little progress made, TB to progress with KG</i></p> <p>JG noted that there was a Former Pupils Reunion advertised in the P&J for the 29th of April. JG to find contact name in order to ascertain if there was interest in the formation of a longer term FP Group. – <i>given JG imminent retirement from the PC action considered closed</i></p> | RS |
| 2. | <p><u>Head Teacher Update</u></p> <p><u>School Inspection</u> DB opened with confidential update on the inspection. A draft of the summary letter has been seen by DB and the main conclusions were shared. The letter will be published in mid-May.</p> <p><u>School Improvement Plan</u> Submission of the School Improvement Plan initially had a deadline of the 30th of April. However, given the imminent publication of the Inspection Report, the draft Improvement Plan will be published in mid-May. The Improvement Plan will be subject to consultation with staff, pupils and parents.</p> <p><u>Staffing</u> Biology – a Newly Qualified Teacher has been recruited for maternity cover Chemistry - a Newly Qualified Teacher has been recruited for maternity cover</p> | DB |

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| | <p>Design and Technology – again there were no applicants for this vacancy. Furthermore, another vacancy will arise as a teacher will be leaving to be nearer home. A new job advert will be placed. Some cover will be available from Pupil Support where two teachers have a technology background. However, depending upon response to the job advert, it is possible that the curriculum will have to be revised.</p> <p>Home Economics – cover for maternity leave has been sourced through recruitment of a teacher</p> <p>English – six applications have been received for the English vacancy</p> <p>Modern Languages – a vacancy will arise as a result of retirement</p> <p>Business Studies - a vacancy will arise as a result of a teacher returning to Northern Ireland</p> <p><u>Support Staff and the Canteen</u></p> <p>The conversation turned to support staff as allocations of support staff are believed to be in line with teacher numbers rather than pupil numbers. The freeze on recruitment of office staff remains in place which has led to issues of continuity in the school office.</p> <p>TB asked if an increased school roll would impact canteen provision. Currently, it is not infrequently the case that the canteen runs out of food and pupils have only a snack, such as crisps, for lunch. There is a pre-ordering system, but it does not appear to work effectively. Pupils are said to be able to ask for a meal to be made up if food has run out, but it is not clear that pupils are aware of this or that this is done in practice. A Health and Nutrition inspector was part of the school inspection team.</p> <div data-bbox="268 952 1385 1008" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Action: DB to speak to kitchen staff to better understand the root cause of the issue</p> </div> <p><u>Access to All-Weather Pitch</u></p> <p>It was noted by TB that the all-weather pitch is often unavailable and it was asked if this was related to the contract and that if anything could be done to improve access.</p> <div data-bbox="268 1171 1385 1227" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Action: DB to investigate [was there an action to this topic?]</p> </div> | <p>DB</p> <p>DB</p> |
| <p>3.</p> | <p><u>Reading Suggestions</u></p> <p>RB noted that the school had an energetic and enthusiastic librarian, and asked if the Librarian could coordinate departmental suggestions for further reading in support of literacy across the curriculum. Existing online resources and the Aberdeen City Library new summer reading initiative are largely targeted at fiction. Some resources are available such as Fivebooks (https://fivebooks.com/) which has some non-fiction material such as their Physics suggestions (https://fivebooks.com/best-books/physics-for-teenagers-kate-lee/) but coverage is patchy and sometimes US biased.</p> <div data-bbox="268 1601 1385 1657" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Action: DB to forward to Librarian</p> </div> <p><u>LinkedIn, Parent Directory</u></p> <p>Little progress had been made on use of LinkedIn for contact with former pupils. RB suggested it might be worth considering a LinkedIn network for former staff as a potential resource for recruitment. DB noted that the school had to be wary of the burden of management of such a resource.</p> <div data-bbox="268 1877 1385 1966" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Action: TB/KG to progress ideas for LinkedIn</p> </div> | <p>RB</p> <p>DB</p> <p>TB</p> |

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| 4. | <p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>Tahar Kouider and Jim Gauld were thanked for their many years of service to the PC. TK noted that the relationship would be maintained through the relationship with RGU that was being renewed with the new Head of Department in Expressive Arts. JG similarly noted that the James Hutton Institute could provide assistance to the Geography Department for more senior pupils.</p> <p><u>Timing of next meeting and AGM</u></p> <p>DB requested a change of date for the next meeting as he had been invited to return to Elgin Academy as guest speaker at their end of year event. A new date of the 17th of June was agreed.</p> | |
| 5. | <p><u>DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING AND AGM</u></p> <p><u>Next PC MEETINGS -</u> 7pm - Monday 17th June 2019 Cults Academy Room 1</p> <p>Outline agenda to be agreed in advance and circulated Local Councillors and student representatives will be routinely invited to all future meetings</p> <p>Any parent or guardian of a pupil at Cults Academy is welcome to attend any Parent Council meeting.</p> <p>The Parent Council can be emailed at PCCultsAcademy@aberdeen.npfs.org.uk</p> <div data-bbox="256 913 443 1001">  <p>Find us on: facebook®</p> </div> <p>fb.me/CultsAcademyPTA or https://www.facebook.com/CultsAcademyPTA</p> | |