

Parent Council Meeting of Cults Academy
Monday 27th June 2021 7-8:30pm

Attendees: David Barnett [DB] (Head), Rick Sansom [RS] (Chair), Alison Murray [AM] (future Chair), Robert Brew [RB](Vice Chair), Daniel Verhamme (Treasurer), Ben Seldon (Secretary PC&PTA-future), Anna Daley (Chair), David Strang [DS] (Secretary), Emma Gillbrand (future Deputy? Chair), Sonya Angus (partial), Irena Jamovic Cegar, Antonia Anderson, Alison Allstaff, , Ros Harper, Louise MacDonald, Alisa Thomson,

Apologies: Kirsteen Gove, VJ, Councillors, Liz Hogan

PTA AGM – Anna Daley (Chair), David Strang (Secretary), Sonya Angus (Treasurer).

PTA Objective: Fundraising targets specific extra curricular activities. Funds raised spent in year not accrued – strong message to encourage enthusiastic staff.

3 years per position as per constitution – covid disruption deferred activity.

Disconnect of parents for last 3 yrs

£5k raffles from 2 xmas's > sports day, table tennis, theatre performance in French, baking, maths app sub, Art club £500, library support - book group 'action & war' in addition to Scottish book prize reviews.

£1347.75 balance – tbc.

Thanks to Anna and Rick from Head and SLT in the school seconded by attendees.

Their examples of longevity, commitment, and caring nature are great examples.

Agenda items	PC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome, sign in and update contact details • Minutes of last meeting and any issues not addressed in other items • School improvement plan and potential movement to taking 7 Nat 5 exams • Staffing changes • Feedback to parents/ carers on both performance within year and subject selection • Cost of school day • AOB AGM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief report on past year • Statement of finances • Role of parent council 	Action
1	DB Heads update: School Improvement Plan: finalized mid sept, update to be shared w/parents at start of next term.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1 Wellbeing/mental health & mental health first aid. ➤ Compassionate and connected classroom – national initiative – how to deal with impact of trauma. Self esteem and confidence have been highlighted as target areas. ➤ 2 Curic: S4 implementing step up in number of Nat 5 to 7 (supported by parents, staff and pupil consultation ongoing). Dry runs – exciting project – matching of loading. 2 yr course rather than 1. Looking to best practice from other schools. ➤ 3 Learning & Teaching assessment. Leader was Rosanne Bennet looking for new leader. Learning and teaching culture – what is an excellent lesson? Consistency & flexibility. ➤ Dovetail in sustainability. ➤ Pilot on peer observation – QA is performed by SLT visits on a theme in 2 week blocks – more uplift from peer to peer – both learn ➤ Parent feedback – excellent teaching standard. One area of concern is that only 37% of parents believe the school supports parents in learning at home. ACTION: BS to share example of report and lack of info in report RB: S6 same feedback on home pupil reports - unclear where strengths are. AM: level 1/2 – unclear how this measures up to expected progress given breadth of level bands. Pupil support is excellent – alerts and follow-ups great	

	<p>DB & DS: next steps in pupils reports should provide insight. Follow-ups with staff in/outside of Parent consultation events if available (supported by several attendees).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tracking & monitoring on targets – too long btwn grade and follow-up. Mid Nov additional check ahead of Jan/Feb. Sets a working grade not a target being more useful than allowing aspirational targets to dominate and is more meaningful for staff – clear communication to parents. <p>Staff announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Usual churn at end of term but fully staffed ➤ Mr Sutherland retires after 37 yrs heading up Cairn house – Congratulations! Replaced by Jamie Milne from Banff ➤ Claire Murray English not returning from Maternity. replacement - Caroline Taylor ➤ 2 new Maths teachers (names missed) ➤ Chemistry – Maternity leave vacancy. Julie Tummel coming back from Middle East and joined by probationary teacher Tina Hyong <p>Cost of School Day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No charge for recoveries – Home Eco, Art etc not being pulled back from parents ➤ Free School meal allocation rise from 19 to 73 in last few months – sign of the cost of living crisis effecting more of the population. ➤ School trip – 3rd yr trip 160 S3s to Manchester/Liverpool – Alton Towers, Old Trafford ➤ ABZ city guidance – devise own school policy. S3 residential standard. S1/S2 day trips. ➤ More appropriate for circumstances – staff working to manage future trips to keep them going albeit scaled back ➤ ?PTA subsidize funding? – scope for target amount for specific activity. Could get sponsorship for sports day and use funds for trips for example. PTA needs targets/guidance. 	
2	<p>Parents interest: Parents evening preferences from survey PARENTS: 58% Face2Face, 37% online. STAFF 50% F2F, 13% online. Keep F2F w/Key is to retain booking online. Proactively book appointments where concern is expressed.</p> <p>AGM: What we do: lobby council for fair allocation of teachers given growing school role and expansion of local population. Worst ratios in whole of Scotland for Teacher/Student ratio ABZ council scale deprivation factor (50%) 2022 Pupil forecast by council ~150 lower than reality. ~1200 school roll in August. School can go to ~1315. 7 nat 5's change risks more imbalance/inefficiency Aberdeen wide parent forum: ASG secondary plus feed primaries – then feed into Aberdeen Education comm and national.</p> <p>Treasurer report: Grant from Abz council Apr-Mar each year. Bal: £805 brought fwd. Dee Bleakley workshop S4,5,6. £800 spent. Income upto £1100. £362 from council this year (has been upto 3 times larger in past). Bal: £366.71 from April this year 3 areas of spend: Admin, Training of members, Other – feed back into school (which dominates)</p> <p>Comms: F2F meetings – have tried diff days to suit the community but saw limited uplift in attendees - could revisit Whatsapp group – setup combined w/PTA? Freya Henry runs FB group for both PTA & PC – needs refresh with new parents Weekly Update reminder. Worth a Group Call – w/text. Social Invite – fun and see some of the school. Cheese & wine wont require license for example.</p> <p>Head, Dep Head, School Captains, all Councillors.</p>	

3	<p>AOB: New roles:</p> <p>PC Chair: Alison Murray Vice chair: Robert Brew Secretary: Ben Seldon Treasurer: Daniel Verhamme</p> <p>PTA Deputy Chair: Emma Gillbrand Secretary PTA: Ben Seldon</p> <p>Next meeting TBC.</p> <p>Outline agenda to be agreed in advance and circulated</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>	