**Carrick Academy Parent Council**

**Wednesday 17th January 2018**

**At 7pm**

**Meeting Room, Carrick Academy**

**In attendance** Shona Stevens - Head Teacher, Aileen Fisher - Chairperson, Emma Broun - Secretary, Brian Connolly – Councillor, Hugh Paterson – Co-opted ,Moira Paton – Treasurer, Jennifer Finlay, Elaine Cubin, Linda Lzatt, Alan Thom, Caroline Alexander, Donna McDowall, Sam McWhirter, Shona McMillian

**Apologies** Deirdre Cuthbertson, Shelley Baillie, Sharon Robb

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Proposed by Shona Stevens seconded by Moira Paton

**Financial Report**

The balance on the bank account to date is £1003.63

Moira suggested we complete the required paperwork with the bank not in her name as she will be resigning at the next AGM and it is a timely process. Emma Broun suggested Shelley Baillie take on this role.

**Head Teacher Report**

1. **Staffing:**

We have had no applicants for the Business Studies post despite 3 adverts. Pauline Girvan (Cluster Support Teacher) is filling the post just now as she is a Business teacher and Susan Hector and Lesley Service are back filling her post in Pupil Support.

Karen MacLeod (Maths) goes on maternity leave in February; Madeline Wiltshire has been recommended for the post, awaiting confirmation of her appointment.

Ian Speirs has started in Technical and Cathy Logan has returned to the school office.

Mary Phillips has retired from her post as School Assistant; her job has been advertised on a temporary basis with interviews taking place on Friday.

1. **School Roll:**

The new S1 is estimated at 83; S4 and S5 are being questioned at present re their plans for next year to finalise the school roll for session 2018-2019.

1. **Budget Cuts:**

The significant cuts proposed for education that will have a detrimental effect on what can be offered in schools in South Ayrshire. Shona Stevens gave a thorough explanation of all cuts effecting education. The P.C. were encouraged to support the school and have your say via the online consultation or by attending one of the meetings with the local councillors.

The closure of Dolphin House & The Duke of Edinbugh Award Scheme were discussed.

1. **New School:**

Presentation by SAC on the new school was shared & it was suggested Shona Stevens book our next meeting at Ayr Academy to allow the P.C. to view the new school.

1. **Work of the School:**

S4-6 prelims have started. Parent meetings are being held throughout February and March including information evenings on option choices. Pupils in S3 moving into S4 will have their parents invited to option interviews to discuss their career aspirations and plan their 3 year learning pathway & how to get there.

S3 are being introduced to the world of work through their one week work experience; this process for this has already started.

All staff are working on their S1-3 course plans building in holistic assessment in line with the local authority and the Scottish Governments agenda; this work is now in its second year. Staff share their work with colleagues across the authority.

Pupil Improvement Plan – the pupils have completed the majority of their plan. A big focus was building their reputation within the community with regards litter. A number of classes have taken part in ‘bin it’ days throughout this session. They have submitted a bid for funding the ‘Youth Work Participatory Budgeting Event’ to support their plan; they have reached the final which will be held in the Carrick Centre on Saturday 27 January. Voting will be 10am-2pm; registration for voters ends at 11.30am.

1. **Mental Health Worker:**

Some of our pupils are going to meet with the Grant Foundation to tell them why a mental health worker would benefit our school in the hope to secure funding for this resource; this is in partnership with CLD.

1. **Visit to China:**

There is an opportunity for 5 young people to visit China between the 8-23 July this year. The pupils taking part will first need to take part in 10 hours of Mandarin lessons on a Saturday afternoon at Grange Academy; they will gain accreditation for this work. The paperwork states that pupils pay £600 to participate but clarification will be sought to see if this is covered by Confucius Hub funding.

1. **Christmas Fayre:**

A total of £993.92 was raised at the Christmas Fayre.

**Quiz Night**

Emma Broun agreed to liase with The Carrick Centre to confirm that 16th March 2018 would be our agreed date for a Quiz Night. It was noted that a possible Quiz Night was also in the diary for 16th February by a sub group within Carrick Academy raising funds for a trip.

Donna McDowall suggested a 80s Disco.

It was later agreed to allow the Quiz Night on the 16th February 2018 to go ahead and the P.C. would have a 80’s Disco in The Speakers Club which is now booked for 2nd June 2018 and it is hopeful we will also have an auction.

**Constitution**

No huge concerns were raised however it was agreed to make it the first agenda item at the next meeting.

**Date of Next Meeting 7th March 2018 at 7pm at Ayr Academy**