**Carrick Academy Parent Council**

**Wednesday 6th March 2019**

**Meeting Room, Carrick Academy**

**In attendance** Shona Stevens - Head Teacher, Lindsay Cunningham - Chairperson, Emma Broun - Secretary, Shelley Baillie – Treasurer, Elaine Gibson, Linda Izatt, Lesley McWhirter, Caroline Alexander

**Apologies** Shona McMillian, Jennifer Finlay, Deirdre Cuthbertson, Holly MacDonald, Donna McDowall, Sam McWhirter

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Proposed by Shelley Baillie and seconded by Elaine Gibson

**Matters arising from previous Minutes**

The P.C. where advised of the following:

L.Cunningham wrote to County Buildings for an update on the progress

with the new Maybole School’s Campus. The following was received from

County Buildings:

As you know Donald Gillies passed your letter to myself and David Strang.  We appreciate that stakeholders have not heard anything for a number of months, which is normal with large projects.  As we explained at the presentation the Council is seeking a contribution from the Scottish Government to help fund the campus project and officers are currently working closely with the Scottish Future Trust to achieve this.  The discussions are proceeding well and we hope to know the outcome in the coming months.  In the meantime we will be taking a paper to the Council’s Leadership Panel on 12th March 2019 to update them on the project and seek approval to move it to the next stage.  As with most papers these will be available to people to view online in advance of the meeting.  Once the Panel has made its decision we will issue a full update for all stakeholders and how the project will be taken forward and the participation of stakeholders.

Hopefully you will find this response helpful with the knowledge that more information on the project is going to be released soon.

This correspondence was also received from Cllr William Grant:

I can confirm that £23 million has been put into capital expenditure at allow Carrick Campus to go ahead. AS per all School new builds we are seeking 50% from Scottish Future Trust. If this was not forthcoming we would rejig capital expenditure to cover the Campus

This Tuesday a paper is coming to Leadership Panel recommending that we now move to design stage and get all weather surfaces underway

**Head Teacher Report**

1. School Roll and Teacher Cuts in Local Authority Savings – The departments affected by the 2.7 FTE staff cuts are Technical, Business and HE who have all had their part time posts cut.  0.8 FTE has been declared surplus in Mathematics, 0.5 FTE in Music and 0.2 FTE in Biology.  The staffing cuts and the drop in the school roll have resulted in a number of classes being removed from the Senior Phase option form.

2. Staffing Update – Gavin Pitt was successful at interview for the Quality Improvement Officer post in SAC.  His post has been advertised with an interview date of Thursday 18 April.  Emma Broun, Deirdre Cuthbertson and Lynn Crossan (Carrick QIO) will be on the panel along with another DHT and me.

Ruth Collins (PT Guidance) has resigned her post from 30 April, her job will be advertised asap.  I am hoping to interview this post before the Easter holiday.

PC Porter is due to leave Carrick after 4 years in post.  A new officer will be allocated to Carrick with interviews taking place on 26 April 2019.

Fiona O’Connell is due to go on maternity leave on 27 May, interviews for the acting PT post will be held on Monday 11 March.

Elaine McGregor-Sloman is our new HE teacher, she will formally start teaching classes at the change of timetable at the end of May.

3. Parental Engagement – There has been a very low turnout at events this year especially the Parent’s Night for S4 (59%), S5/6 (45%) parents.

We are planning an open day on Wednesday 27 March at 9am and 1pm.  Parents will be invited into the school, they will be given a tour of the working school followed by a consultation on school improvement.  Letters for this will be sent out next week.

4. Consultation on Reporting – SAC are piloting a new report to parents for all pupils in S1-3.  It has been agreed that all young people in S1-3 will now receive two tracking reports and one final report each year.  The final report will have a reduction in the written information previously provided to parents.  The tracking report will record their target grade, working grade and indicate the level of the BGE that they have achieved.  There will be no written comments on the tracking report.  TS Stevens provided a sample of the report that is being piloted at present.

SAC have asked that we consult with parents about other ways we can share the progress their children are making in their learning.

5.  Scottish National Survey of Achievement (SNSA) – S3 will complete the tests after the Easter break.  PT’s in English and Maths have had an induction on the reports that can be pulled to support learning.   SAC have offered CLPL on the use of reports to support course planning.

Last session our Cluster Primary Schools provided tracking information on experiences that learners had; this was used to modify the planning of learning when they came to secondary school.  This information will be shared again this session.

6. Work Placements – We are in the process of assigning work placements to pupils, they are out over two weeks - 29 April and 6 May.

7. Final SQA Examinations – Preparations for the final exams have started.  Staff are supporting all young people to complete any internal assessments that are required.  Pupils will be issued with exam timetables in the next two weeks.

Study leave will start on 25 April.  S6 will spend their last day celebrating their completion of 6 years at Carrick Academy at the Graduation event.  Pupils will return to school on Wednesday 29 May when the new timetable will commence.

8. Easter School – This will take place during the Easter holiday, staff are being asked what classes they would like to offer to support young people’s progress.  A list of the classes on offer will be shared with young people in the next couple of weeks.

9. Potential Strike Action – The pay deal has not been settled and EIS are balloting for strike action; the proposed date is 24 April.  The majority of Carrick’s teaching staff are in the EIS.  SAC will not provide any advice until the results of the ballot have been produced.

10. New School – This has been formally announced through the press but there has been no further communication with the school since the meeting held with parents in September.

**Fundraising Activities**

Quiz Night :Arrangements were made for the Quiz Night E. Broun and E. Gibson will organise food/drinks and C.Alexander donated discount vouchers to be used. E. Broun will arrange wine and flowers for Wallace & Ruth for hosting the event for us. E. Gibson will pick up raffle prizes from Asda etc. S. Baillie will drop off payment to The Carrick Centre and bring Raffle prizes handed in at school. As many of the committee as possible will help with set up at 3pm then be back at 6/6.30pm on the night of the event. A closing ,”Thank you” will be done by S.Stevens or L.Cunningham

Charity Shop: E.Broun will add a picture of the rota for the Charity Shop to the P.C. What’s app group and bring the rota to the next meeting to finalise arrangements

**Bank Signatories**

S. Baillie advised we need a third signatory for the bank account and arrangements were made for this, currently E.Broun and S.Baillie are signatories.

**School Holiday Consultation**

The School Holidays for the session 2020/2021 were put to the P.C. No members had strong opinions to either of the proposals.

**SAC Parent Council Meeting**

**A.O.C.B.**

E.Gibson gave details of a vacancy on the NPFS National Parent for Scotland, they are looking for a South Ayrshire representative, anyone interested should contact Joanna Murphy on chair@npfs.org.uk. The next meeting is 23/3/19 In Edinburgh (all costs reimbursed)

Further to T.S Stevens consulting the P.C. on the new Tracking Reports the following was discussed at the meeting then forwarded by email to the Secretary for inclusion in the minutes:

* Parents expressed serious concerns about the proposed changes, particularly around the usefulness of the example report from Prestwick Academy. It was felt that to receive such a document 2-3 times a year, with very little change on it from one report to the next, would not add value to the parents' understanding of how their child is progressing. It was felt that any kind of report card for a child that requires four pages of explanatory notes, is not an appropriate way to engage parents in their child's learning. To have ploughed through these notes, only to find that the rest of the document could effectively be identical to the one before and the one after, with the possible exception of the insertion of the words 'good' or 'very' in certain areas, will leave parents confused as to why the school is wasting time and money to produce something that gives little insight or information.  A further concern raised was the reduction of teacher comment to a mere 100 word summary. It was felt that, given pupils have a number of teachers, parents would struggle to see this as an overall picture of their child, without knowing who had written it and how much knowledge they had of the child's progress in all subjects.
* Too much information at the beginning to read to enable you to understand report when the report does not really tell you anything about your child's progress.  Would rather have 1 useful report than 3 useless reports.

**Date of next meeting Wednesday 8th May 2019**

**in the Meeting Room at Carrick Academy**