

Stirling High School
Parent Council Meeting 2nd May 2017

1. Apologies: MF, AH, RN, AM, MF, FA
2. Present: PL, PC, SP, WP, FS, CH – Jo Miller and Ros Burton have resigned as their children have left school.
3. The minutes from the meeting on 28th March were approved.
4. Funds – £1244.95
5. Head teacher's Report

PC shared the paper version of a document entitled Stirling High School Pupil Equity Fund. This document will be accessible for all on the school website, it clearly explains the PEF and how SHS plan to use this fund to disrupt the pattern of disadvantage for those YP affected by poverty.

PC shared the news of the appointment of Mr Harry Fowler who is the new PT Creative Industries. He is currently a Music teacher in Bathgate and will visit SHS during the final term to work on a handover with Mrs Thomson prior to her retirement at the end of June. SHS has been successful in gaining a 6th ECO flag in a row. Trudi Togneri has been working with the ECO club for the past 15 years and her dedication has been inspirational. PC shared the news about the Bee project. This is a partnership with the Thistle Centre and Plan Bee. SHS will have a hive on the roof of the Thistle Centre which is being paid for by the Thistle Centre. Ian Wandless and Young Enterprise are linked in with this. Bee Positive will be selling the honey procured from the hive. S1-3 pupils have the opportunity to be one of ten pupils involved in this exciting innovation. So far, 34 YP have declared an interest in this. The 10 YP chosen will have lessons from Plan Bee in bee-keeping wearing bee-keeping outfits. There will be a yield of 20 jars of exclusive honey from the hive and this will be auctioned off. Tom Ambrose, RMPS teacher is leading this. The Thistle Centre have invested between £3000 and £4000 in this project. IW will come into school to talk to the YP interested in this opportunity. They will have the chance to develop a wide range of skills through their involvement.

PC shared the introduction of a new course for YP in S5 to have the option of taking Design, Engineer and Construct. This course is in partnership with Turner & Townsend and will focus on surveying, all aspects of building, computer design, laser surveying and YP will also benefit from hands on experience. Lots of schools currently offer this course in England. Offering this course demonstrates how responsive SHS are to providing an alternative curriculum based on the needs of some of the YP at SHS. Design and technical staff will deliver this course and they will attend training to enable them to do this. SHS are one of three finalists in the Scottish Education Awards for their innovative approach to Learning through Technology. Staff had to submit a report to nominate the excellent practice. Staff from Education Scotland came to school to interview a range of pupils, staff and parents to garner their opinion on the impact of this. The awards ceremony takes place on 7th June.

PC shared that an increasing roll for the forthcoming session will have an impact on registration classes. He explained that in S1 currently there are 27 placing requests, going forward to the new session in August 2017 there will be 41. More YP are choosing to stay on for S5. The roll will continue to increase and each school has a designated quota of staff. The implications will be analysed in September after the school census. PC shared that form classes will increase in size from 20 to 30 to free up staff by taking them out of registration and allow them to teach their subjects. This will mean that some YP will have to move registration class, however, they will remain in the same house. PTs of Pupil Support will be looking at classes to establish who can be moved based on friendship groups and YP resilience. PC shared that the increase in size of registration classes is a move that would have had to happen at some point anyway.

6. Head Boy/Head Girl – The Head Boy and Head Girl did not attend this meeting as they are currently on study leave.
7. Parent Council
PL shared a few dates regarding meetings; Parent Council Network Meeting 16th May 2017. Parental Engagement Strategy Survey please return to Judy Edwards by 14th May.
8. AOCB –
PL shared his intention to step down as Chair of the Parent Council as his youngest child leaves school. This of course means that we will now be on the lookout for a new Chair person.
9. DONM – AGM – Date TBC September/October 2017