

IRVINE ROYAL ACADEMY
PARENT COUNCIL

AMBITION RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY



MINUTES
4th September 2023

IN ATTENDANCE: Tracy Lindsay, Elizabeth Frew, Maurene Richmond, Kirsty Bryson, Dionne Gordon, Marie Harvey, Pamela Jack, Barbara McVey, Claire Rough, Elaine Walker, Alistair Wallace, Jacqueline Wallace, Mandy Wilson, Linzi Sloan (Head Teacher)

Apologies: Amanda Haggerty

ITEM	ACTION
<p>1. <u>Welcome</u> Welcome attendees, and acknowledgement of apologies.</p>	
<p>2. <u>New Committee</u> We have to vote in Committee members for the new session.</p> <p>Voted in - Chair: Tracy Lindsay Vice Chair: Elizabeth Frew Treasurer: Mandy Wilson Secretary: Maurene Richmond</p>	
<p>3. <u>Treasurer Report</u> Bank account balance is £4146.07. £3,000 is mental health grant. £500 is for the school for the cost of PE t-shirts. £646.07 is the PC balance.</p> <p>Petty cash balance £95.15.</p> <p>Fund raising is the main goal for this year.</p>	

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4. Head Teacher Update

774 pupils currently in the school - over 100 increase in the last 3-4 years.

S6 returning year group of 95 – double last year. 32 put forward to be a part of the Senior Pupil Leadership Team (SPLT).

Small UCAS group last year. 34 signed up for UCAS – all young people, with the exception of two, got their first choice course (including law and medicine).

2nd year is full. We cater for 180 in first year so we have space, but some of those slots have gone quickly with pupils feeling they've made the wrong choice and moving over quickly from other NA schools. Very few spaces left in the senior phase – staffing based on school roll as last census, so quite tight just now.

In terms of staffing, we did have a full complement – this week interviewing for PE and English as NAC gave us an additional one FTE which is split between two subjects up to Christmas. Very strong requirement for local authorities to maintain teacher numbers. NAC must do a return on census day stating they have the same number of staff in place that they did last year – if not, incurs a multi million pound fine. Been given a little extra til Christmas to get us through census day. Interviewing for math post; interviewing for Faculty Head of maths; Lizzie Elliot came back as full time Faculty Head of social subjects and RME and has taken a pilot work/life balance for a year – she's down to 0.6 so have to interview for a 0.4 of the faculty head. Ms Mitchum in Art is going on maternity leave – cover to put in place. Added some additional pointage in English in addition to the 0.5. Karen McCulloch coming in to do an extra 0.4 to target young people who are at risk of not achieving or attaining within an English and literacy context to ensure everybody achieves something. Eleanor Lamont in music is doing an extra 0.4 with an eye on SSR, SIR and primaries. Hopefully we will get to the primaries sooner, and transitional work for P6 and P7.

Pupil Parliament – whittled down to 40 people opted to be involved S1-S5. 32 applicants for SPLT. Additional 50 put forward to be Prefects in S1-S6. Meeting with the staff leadership steering group this week to plan what that will look like. Young people want to be involved.

Going to be working with the communities team and the pupil parliament to drive that forward. LS will take charge of the SPLT and work very closely with the Head Boy & Girl, and staff will divide up

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and take a year group each in terms of pupil Prefects, design an improvement plan and drive forward what they want to do as a year group.

Sport Leaders, NASA Sports Leaders to represent North Ayrshire, Mentors and Violence Prevention and Mental Health Ambassadors – there's opportunity if young people want to be involved across all areas.

Attainment – 2022: 238 Higher presentations across S5&6, 2023 we had 327. A-C pass rates are broadly similar to the past few years. All data is showing we are better than pre-2019 (pre Covid). We predicted 28% of last year's 4th year would get a minimum of 5 Nat 5s and 31% got that. We predicted that 45% would get 3 at 5 – and it was 43%. Data is all pre-appeal. 746 appeals have been entered. Appeal system has completely changed – now is a simple re-count. One or two marks away from getting the grade above. Re-mark can also go down. Musicians felt strongly the external examiner marked them to severely – all recordings listened to again and they are submitting all pieces.

5th year results – pre-appeal and also 5th year Level qualifications aren't added into the data, lots do Level 5 and 6 awards (college and school) – we don't get that data completed til insight comes out and then an accurate picture will appear. Nearly 10% of 5th years got 5 Highers which was broadly the estimate. In terms of 3 Highers, we estimated 30%, and 29.49% attained. In terms of 1 Higher, 50% attained. 6th year – estimated 8% would get 3 and 12% attained. Advanced Higher estimated was 15% and 12% attained (this is slightly skewed because of design and manufacture nationally). 6 young people in 4th year who got 8 Nat 5s – one got 8 A's Band 1s. 5th year, 8 achieved 5 Highers, 2 achieved A Band 1s. They are joint Dux for 2023.

Overall, lots of highlights within attainment. Some subjects bang on with estimates and performance. Other subjects are having discussions at a local level. Faculty Heads have started meetings with class teachers to look at attainment of their class. Very data driven.

Prize giving on Wednesday 6th. Ceremony starts 7pm. Keynote Speaker is Fiona McKenzie OBE – founder of Centrestage.

P6/7 open night on 14th September. Jill is leading on that. Tour of small groups around curricular areas.

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<p>Friday – signed a contract for Irvine Royal to become an official school of rugby. Afforded this opportunity at the end of term. Mr Couper is a rugby coach. Involve 1st and 2nd year boys and girls and P6 and P7 primary pupils – we will get 0.3 staffing for Rory (someone to come in a back fill for him to do the school of rugby). Very intense – session before school, two sessions within the curriculum and a session after school. Hopefully a three year project. Main goal is getting young people to be making good choices, healthy lifestyles, discipline, respect, etiquette, routine – in time a pathway to Irvine Rugby Club. This is cashback money from the proceeds of crime – money goes to SRU and cashback. Targets schools in particular areas where the demographic is such that there’s potentially high levels of poverty, unemployment and crime etc. Next closest school doing this is Inverclyde Academy. P6/7 open night Rory will be doing a mini-launch. Idea is that he will be down in the primaries, and also that Sports Leaders and NASA students will be in the primaries to whet the appetites so we are in a better position next year.</p> <p>We have been broken into a number of times recently, in the last fortnight broken into 5 times over 4 nights. The insurance company said the school would not be covered over the weekend unless night guards were in place as the doors were not secure.</p> <p>In the main, nothing has been taken. One incident on 17th July – two youths came in Sandy Rd doors, down to the janitors office, broke into a drawer and removed keys, went to the main office and used a crowbar to break into the safe the insurance company said couldn’t be broken into and took £700. Over the past few days people have been out doing security things and it’s being highly scrutinised (Assets Team, insurance company, Estates, Facilities Management).</p> <p>Some windows on the ground floor won’t close. Some is negligence by staff, others are faulty and due to lack of funds have yet to be fixed. A lot of primaries broken into over the summer. Everyone has been given, from a facilities management point of view, enhanced roles and responsibilities – eg a lot of classrooms were not locked at the end of the day.</p>	

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<p>5. <u>Update on last year</u></p> <p>We hosted a psychic night, organised Santa’s Grotto for the fayre, raised £160 for creative arts through tuck shops at different school events, donated to SSR and SIR towards outings; supported family engagement events within the school by providing donations; donated to the Royal Rewards; also the SPLT towards the year book and hoodies and S6 prom donation of £300 for lights and disco.</p> <p>We received a grant funding from North Ayrshire Mental Health Commission for mental health support for pupils; funding from Robertson Trust for Royal Resources (helps families with the cost of the school day) and we are putting another application in this year. And a donation to the PE department to the cost of new t-shirts for S1 pupils.</p> <p>Action plan for this year will be on the website. Trying to boost numbers of the Parent Council is a priority – what are reasons why people can’t or won’t come to meetings? Possibly making up a form before meetings so then all voices can be shared. Trying to increase social media presence. Setting dates at the start of the term so everyone is aware when meetings are scheduled. Promoting PC at school events – attending P7 events, school newsletter and website. Getting involved in steering groups. Identifying community events. Linking up with SPLT. Summer fete – June. Looking to apply for Charity status as this may increase funding opportunities.</p>	<p>TL will develop form to share with parents/carers</p> <p>All PC members to be involved in promoting PC at school events</p> <p>TL will look into charity funding status</p>

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<p>6. <u>Royal Resources</u> Dionne Gordon is the RR lead. DG asked TL to put an application in for the Asda cost of living grant as well as the Robertson grant. Lots of casual clothes, awaiting more toiletries coming in, have hundreds of period products. Open every Wednesday 11-12.</p> <p>Badges can also be heat pressed onto uniforms – last approx. 50 washes. Bring It Badge It event – this is hopefully going to be NA-wide. BIBI is how it’s to be “sold”. It’s through a supplier in England – they buy the badges and parents pay £1.50. It’s an embroidered badge but smooth underneath. Events are well received – queued round the school in Troon.</p> <p>Also we are a registered foodbank – not just for the school.</p> <p>LS – going to be having monthly conversation cafes, different theme each month, and setting up parent support group – perfect opportunity to link up with RR.</p> <p>EW – if outwith RR time, we have a QR code or form linked to every community centre in Irvine for cleaning packs, clothes from babies up – packs dropped at the community centre nominated.</p>	<p>TL will apply for Asda Cost of Living Grant EF will re-apply for Robertson Grant</p> <p>PC to promote</p> <p>PC to promote</p>

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7. Funding Applications

TL and EF attended a PB meeting – two grants we can apply for this year. Youth and Joint Application.

Youth PB – met up with Jillian and Simone and looking at resources for the garden to use for outdoor learning and for mental health. No tables, grass is poor etc.

Joint Application with Mhairi Forrest from Learning Outside the Classroom. She had been speaking to Jillian and Jill and Karen Wotherspoon about making links with the school but never came to fruition. Met Mhairi and looking to do a joint application for £5,000 and it would get gazebos, pergolas etc. Mhairi is assisting with the application. Stuff done through Impact Arts, Jillian sent over consultation to help.

Youth PB fund – closing date 11th September.

Last year we made an application for the garden but didn't get through because the school had so many applications in.

LS – NAC thinks the PC can link in with Robertsons (benefits wishlist). They've already been out and took notes on all three gardens and what they could potentially do. Robin Knox from NAC said it has to be the PC not the school. NAC want to have a meeting with the PC to talk through what that could look like. Robertsons will join the meeting.

EW – PC can apply for CIF funding, up to £100,000. It has to be a specific project. On the Wishlist, you put the type of assistance you're looking for. It needs to be costed quite specifically. You are eligible to apply for two PB fundings, but both need to be different. Only constituted groups are allowed to apply, and only Parent Councils not schools can apply. Will cut applications down. Shared Prosperity PB money (£30,000) is money that's left over from funding from Shared Prosperity Fund which went live in July – only open a month. Not enough applications to use all the money.

EF – we worked out it would be more beneficial to ask for labour (and/or materials) than financial assistance. We thought we would have more chance if we applied for the one the children voted for, so if the kids could login here and vote at school.

MW – B&Q (or DIY.com) have a charitable link on their website for funding.

TL has completed application for Youth PB; MF has completed Joint Application with TL

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8. Elaine Walker

Takes the lead in overseeing youth services provision in Irvine. Put out a survey online asking young people where is your nearest community centre, what would you like to see, what age are you – had less than 20 responses across Irvine. Am based at Redburn. Dreghorn is historically really busy. Springside really quiet – needs 6 young people or more to run it or it will need to be cut. There are youth groups there for P7 and above. Youth provision is from age 11-25 – difficult trying to engage young people when they hit about 14 in things in the community. Had a couple of young people from the youth parliament asking why Redburn was cut – because of numbers dropping. Happy to look at themed groups (gaming etc) but needs to come from the young people.

We don't have funding to set up youth groups. They're not charged, they're all free access. A lot of the resources throughout the years we try to be savvy with. We ask the young people what they want if we receive this funding, we try and get things to utilise across all the youth groups – Switch or Playstation etc.

LS – we do youth group assemblies so that would be a great opportunity to promote.

Locally there's Vineburgh. Legacy centre is where most of the older people are going, what we are trying to do now is signpost them to the legacy centre and looking at youth groups as being predominantly transition groups, but open to ideas – putting the survey on the website/FB.

Used to have an Irvine Youth Forum – came to a natural end. They came up with the legacy centre. That group provides advice and guidance on what should go on in that centre. So planning on an Irvine Royal Youth Forum looking at issues affecting young people in the community. Groups that parents could get involved in.

Pupil Parliament – $\frac{3}{4}$ of the kids there signed up for the youth forum, but we don't want to make it too big, so run with the people we have and if we want more we can open it up for a wide representation across the years so not all one particular age group. Want to know what's affecting young people in your community whether you're 12 or 16. Also going to have a junior youth forum which will take from primary schools.

As well as all the youth things, we do capacity building and adult learning. Would be good to link in with Ewan to see if there's

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<p>anything we can support you with adult learning. And obviously relating to funding.</p> <p>Vineburgh and Fullarton have their own service level agreement with the Council, so they are paid to provide services themselves. Vineburgh have a smaller service level agreement so the local authority would put on a youth group – which was always a busy group. Posters are usually on the message board.</p> <p>We can get more community groups to do things more for families – things coming up are cooking classes, sewing/upcycling clothes.</p> <p>Multi sports group at Redburn – Scottish Sports Futures are keen to be involved. Did a transition group at Greenwood for the P7s – really successful. Happy to trial at Redburn maybe 4 weeks badminton / volleyball.</p> <p>LS – we had an extra-curricular fayre with 30 stalls – young people could sign up for lunchtimes and after school.</p>	
<p>9. <u>Fundraising 2023/24</u> Looking to hold a psychic night – last year we raised around £600! Raffle prizes are to be sourced.</p>	<p>TL and EF will organise</p>
<p>10. <u>Online Training for PC Members</u> In September – one on PC good practice and fundraising. On Zoom – ask TL for the link. Run by Connect.</p>	<p>TL and EF will attend</p>
<p><u>Next Meeting</u> Dates for the rest of the year.</p>	