

IRVINE ROYAL ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

AMBITION RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY



MINUTES 4th September 2024

IN ATTENDANCE: Tracy Lindsay, Elizabeth Frew, Maurene Richmond, Marie Harvey, Lorna Kerr, Mandy Wilson, Kirsty Bryson, Kirsty McDonald, Jill Hosie, Linzie Sloan(HT)
SPLT (Alexis Young, Aiden Houston, Hannah Wilson, Brodi Gemmell)

APOLOGIES: Claire Rough, Elaine Walker (Localities Officer), Kelly Gow

Welcome

Welcome to attendees, and acknowledgement of apologies.

AGM & Membership

In 2023/24 we did a lot – tuck shops, fund raising events etc raised over £1550.

We made donations to: SSR and SIR for outings; S6 prom; mock court; 2025 EuroDisney maths trip; Barnardos for room decoration. We also supported family engagement events.

Every year we apply, and receive funding from, the Robertson Trust and that helps fund the Royal Resources shop and acquiring uniform. We applied for and received funding from the Youth PB for outdoor learning resources for the garden area.

EF attending meetings regarding library cuts.

We would like to expand on this going forward for 2024/25.

As this meeting was the first of the new term and the AGM, a new membership had to be voted in. The following were nominated and seconded, comprising:

Chair - Tracy Lindsay
Vice Chair - Elizabeth Frew
Secretary - Maurene Richmond
Treasurer - Mandy Wilson

IRVINE ROYAL ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

AMBITION RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY



Fundraising Officer - Lorna Kerr

Treasurer Report

See attached financial document from TL. Currently have a healthy balance, which is available for use to the school.

HT Update

LS sent out a parent/carer calendar for the whole year. This should avoid any double bookings of events etc and boost engagement with events.

Started attainment analysis meetings. Awaiting Insight – the national benchmarking tool – which comes out mid-September and will give a clearer idea on performance of all.

LS requested a curriculum review with NAC last term to look at BGE curriculum and our progression into and across the senior phase. That was cancelled, but is happening this week.

Staffing – doing not too bad. Appointed Fraser Robertson into Acting Principal Teacher role in Tech - will advertise that around Christmas time. However, a replacement is needed for Fraser, and also a replacement for Shannon Davis on a 0.5 basis. Nobody out there for Technical roles currently, however, we have some great general supply supporting departments who are timetabled to Technical classes on rotation. Fraser is going to send out a communication to offer up additional support on a Wednesday and Thursday because nobody is getting a Technical teacher for all of their timetable. He's happy to give up his own time after school to provide that extra support.

Hazel Cains is off due to shoulder surgery – expected to be back the week before the October break.

Lizzi Elliot is 0.4 faculty head for Social Subjects, and Karen Muir 0.6. Lizzi is on a phased return.

Last week was the extra curricular fair. Lots on offer – posters up and on display.

School photographs for S1, 3 and 5 this week.

Prize giving next Wednesday. Still looking for a keynote speaker!

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AMBITION RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY

Got a pamper night coming up. 26th September. Mixed responses on getting businesses in at the moment.

Need assistance with painting the old PE changing rooms that are defunct because of covid – PE want these to be used as spaces for those with anxiety etc. Not in a good condition – no budget for it. Stairwell quote was £13k. Volunteers needed to get it done. No access to the school building on the weekend anymore due to the changes of the rules on lets. Needs to be after school when there's already a let on. Paint can be paid for. Plan required to target zones most in need.

ACTION: PC to link with Gillian Cassidy

SPLT now in place. Going to meet on a Monday interval with LS. They have been tasked to have a look at the whole school calendar when key events are on and come up with their own plan of what they want to get involved in, what they want to lead and drive forward over the next session. Important that SPLT had representation at PC meetings. Due to jobs etc, they will be coming in rotation. In the event of non availability, an email update will suffice.

Prom – conversations have started. Committee will get set up.

Hoodies – to be ordered early, uniform colours.

ACTION: LS to follow up

Action Plan

Taken out part on applying for charity status – becomes quite legally involved. Added family bingo as it's a great fund raiser. Garden area – set up a group last year to approach businesses through the Council wish list but not much has come from it. Changes afoot re the library, EF and MW have been attending meetings with other Parent Councils.

ACTION: TL to speak to Rory re uploading to website

Notice boards need updating. All insurance documents and memberships are up to date.

Funding Applications

Applied for £5,000 from GSK – should hear in the next couple of weeks if any more information is required.

Youth PB – had to complete an evaluation form on what we used the money for (picnic tables, lawn mowers etc). Closing date is 13th September if we want to apply. LS suggested a Microsoft form distributed to departments.

ACTION: TL to create and distribute

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AMBITION RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY

Elaine Walker, Localities Officer was in touch – her colleague Gary Tait is overseeing adult learning in groups within Irvine and asked if we wanted to touch base with Parents Support Group. Last year we tried but it wasn't well attended.

MH and EF spoke about support for pupils moving to college – LS said they will be on the TAC schedule, there's a designated window for young people transitioning to college who have an identified additional support need and the college will be invited in and a member of their support for needs team will join that and ensure information is shared in relation to what needs are so they can plan for that support. There is a designation TAC window for transition post-school. LS stated within school is Skills Development Scotland worker Fiona Callan. There is also a post-school worker does follow ups and revisits. A designated team attached to each school.

Transition Schedule

Starting at Primary 5 upwards – starts two weeks on Wednesday. Based on feedback, going to try and expand the tour as much as possible. Looking to take our MVP mentors down to P7 classes to do input with them. Have a connection with Fiona Garland from Barnardos who is keen to come along to any event we have on at night to share the Stronger Families Kinship support. We have reworded Parents Night to Pupil Progress Evenings because not every young person has a parent.

Next Meeting

7th October

4th November

2nd December

13th January 2025

3rd February

3rd March

12th May

2nd June

TREASURER REPORT: JUNE 2024 – SEPTEMBER 2024

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Bank Statement:

Money Out:			Money In:		
25/06/24	Royal Resources	£200.00	17/07/24	NAC Creditors	£547.00
26/06/24	Barnardos	£250.00			
28/06/24	Tuck Shop cabaret	£ 55.00			
23/08/24	Books – English Dept	£119.80			
23/08/24	Calculators – Maths Dept	£201.48			
31/08/24	Emily Test	£500.50			

BALANCE IN BANK ACCOUNT AS OF 1st SEPTEMBER 2024 - £4836.80

Monies which are allocated for specific purposes e.g. grants, etc:

Royal Resources	£718.30
SSR Stronger Starts Funding	£1003.25
Youth PB Fund	£93.07
Mental Health Grant	£324.50
Disney Trip c/o F McNiff	£500.00

Petty Cash Tin:

- Bingo Night Profit £269.20
- Tesco Bag Packing Event £251.54

THIS LEAVES A PARENT COUNCIL BALANCE OF - £2718.42