

**Strathaven Academy**  
**Parent Council**

**AGM held on 19th September 2022**

***In attendance:***

J Campbell (Chair) A Brennan, J Tunney, C McMorris, J Frew, C Webber, K Kinniburgh, W Huq (Headteacher), I Fleming (Depute Head Teacher), P Hamilton (Principal Teacher PE/Acting Depute Head Teacher), V Leck (Teacher)

***Apologies:***

Cllr E Frame  
R McLean  
Cllr S Kerr  
G MacKenna

**AGM**

Jack welcomed all in attendance to the meeting

***Minutes of previous AGM - June 2022***

No matters arising, minutes approved

***S6 Leadership report***

- L Bain and E Munro joined the meeting to talk of their experience of the previous school year. They talked positively about the reward days pupils experienced in June.
- The Most Enterprising School Award which was celebrated and recognised nationally at an event held at the end of June.
- Pupils recognised the loss of Mr McGarrie. Pupils have been supported since their return to school and an appropriate memorial to staff and pupils lost is being planned.
- SQA results: fantastic achievements and hard work recognised.
- A return to trips and events including the Edinburgh book festival and Art exhibitions.
- Senior phase awards ceremony: pupils were happy to see the return of the event.
- St Andrews Hospice fun run took place last week with A Ash finishing first, with more events to support this charity planned throughout the year.
- Extra-curricular activities back up and running and well attended.

***Chairperson's report***

- June constitution amended, AGM moved from June to August to attract new members from S1.
- No further update since the last meeting was only three months ago.

- Currently the Parent Council has 18 members, the maximum is 20, two places available.
- Members should rotate on a four yearly basis
- New members:

M White

C McMorris

C Webber

**Parent council meeting**  
**Tuesday 19th September 2022**

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***Election of office bearers:***

Vice chair	J Tunney
Secretary	C McMorris
Communications lead:	A Brennan

**Communication**

Discussion was held around the best way forward with regard to communication between the school and parents. It was agreed that a communications sub group would be formed, I Fleming will be the school link, A Brennan will be part of the sub group.

Further discussion regarding communication then took place.

**Website**

The school website is a free website builder programme and is updated by staff which is time consuming and can be difficult to keep up to date.

The Parent Council were asked for a list of the information they would like included on the parent section of the website. K Kinniburgh suggested school day start and end times, "face to a name" for staff. I Fleming to collate list from A Brennan

I Fleming talked about trying to reach parents with a wide range of communication platforms including, twitter, website, school app, text, letter. It was felt that using a wide range of platforms would help reach more parents. This has not necessarily been the case. It was agreed by the council that a more streamlined approach to communication should be the way forward. I Fleming to work with the sub-group to inform parents at consultation evenings and events with regard to the preferred method of communication. Further sub-group members are needed.

## ***Head teachers report***

W Huq offered condolences to the Queen

Staffing: Update given, 72.7 Full time teachers  
Ms Barr reduced working week to four days  
Miss Hamilton appointed 0.2 Acting DHT  
Mrs Kincaid appointed 0.2 Acting PT PE  
3 new teachers appointed, science, social subjects and creative and aesthetic  
3 Newly qualified teachers, PE, English and Art

School roll 1003, school capacity 850. W Huq explained that the school is working hard to find creative solutions to limited space availability in the school.

### Senior Phase attainment

Good set of results and W Huq very happy with the pre-appeal position. School comparator data released this week which will give a wider picture against virtual comparator schools.

Always points for reflection and areas for improvement. All faculties have taken part in results reviews and next steps agreed.

The addition of National Progression Awards (NPA), Developing the Young Workforce placements, QTS and Gradu8 programme have enhanced and enriched pupil experience and overall results.

Wider achievement and apprenticeships added great value to the school curriculum and will continue to do so. W Huq was clear that the focus is not only on academic achievement, but providing the very best experience and opportunities for all young people.

200 appeals submitted to SQA. J Campbell, asked if this level was in keeping with previous years and other schools. I Fleming explained this year's appeals system and suggested 10% of entries have been appealed which is in line with the national picture.

### Wider Curriculum

Wider curriculum fair held for all pupils in S1-2. Clubs offered across all faculties in the school. P Hamilton will add the brochure to the school app. Participation levels high across S1-2

### School Awards

- Reading School Silver status
- Scottish Enterprising school of the year.  
Education Scotland Festival - Strathaven Academy pupils will be attending the festival to talk about their experience of enterprising education as a result of our school award.

- Senior school Awards - The awards ceremony was held again this year and was a great success. J Frew asked for clarification on the meaning of the awards (achievement, attainment and citizenship). She felt it was not clear what awards were given for and who had nominated pupils for the awards. This point was taken on and SLT will make sure this is clearer next session.

### PTA

PTA raised £3500 at the bubbles and bites event.

Departments were asked to submit bids for funding which will be awarded in due course.

Thank you to the PTA for all their work on this event

### Consultation evenings

Staff were consulted at faculty meetings and parents were consulted through a Google Form. 115 parental responses returned across all six year groups. Responses were mixed and there was no clear preference between in person and online from Staff or Parents.

Consultation evenings will therefore be a combination of in person and online meetings.

Details to be confirmed in due course

### Standards and Quality report

Report is produced and sent to South Lanarkshire Council. The report details school achievements from last session. This is now available for parents on the website and school app.

### Upcoming events:

- STEM Family evening - Wednesday 5th October
- Creative and Aesthetic showcase - Tuesday 11th October

### **Improvement Plan – Parents as Partners; 2.7 (Partnerships)**

I Fleming shared the Improvement plan with the Parent Council in advance of the meeting. The plan uses the same format as the school Improvement Plan. The aim is to try and have a clear focus for the Parent Council this session.

J Campbell was uneasy with the first point in IP??. The plan suggests recruiting new members from a variety of social, economic and culturally different backgrounds. J Campbell did not like the suggestion that the Parent Council was not open to all parents and felt the council worked hard to encourage all parents to engage regardless of background. J Tunney discussed strategies for reaching all parents and suggested a parent conference. It was agreed that the parent consultation evenings would be a good opportunity to engage parents and tell them about the Parent Council.

Parents who are not members of the council can still be part of the subgroups outlined in the IP. This may be more attractive to many since there is no expectation to attend full Parent Council meetings 5 times per annum..

### **Promoting Positive Behaviour**

P Hamilton updated on next steps.

### **Values**

Staff working group met and reviewed the first value “Responsible”. Pupils are responding well to “On time, Be Ready and Electronics away” with staff noticing a marked reduction? in the use of electronics in class.

Term 2: the focus will be on the next school value, “Respect”. This will include respecting “self, peers and the environment”. This will be shared with staff over the coming weeks and pupils after the October holiday.

### **Merit System**

Departments will award merits when appropriate in their departments. Merit system will link to the house system and house points will be awarded to pupils who achieve a “merit”. Merit certificates will be awarded at the end of each term.

### **Buy back system**

Pupils who have been given a demerit will have the opportunity to cancel this out by carrying out agreed actions. This will be dependent on what the demerit was given for,

### **Business Mentoring**

A Brennan asked about PVG for mentors. W Huq noted this and will follow up as it has still to be confirmed who is paying for the applications.

### **AOCB**

Next meeting was discussed. G McKenna had asked if the meeting could be held on line. Benefits of in person and virtual meetings discussed.

It was agreed that alternate meetings would be offered to the PC group and views sought.

Next Meeting: 29/11/2022