Farr Parent Council AGM

for Farr High, Primary and Nursery School

19 / September / 2019

Present	Apologies
Abby Hardwick (Chair)	Amanda Moseley (High Depute)
Audrey Robson (Primary Teacher)	Fraser Mackay (Vice Chair)
Beverley Cushman (Church of Scotland, Farr and Altnaharra	Magda Pieniadz (Nursery Teacher)
Carol-Anne Farquhar (Primary Teacher)	Laura Murray (Primary Depute)
Donna Weare (Secretary)	
Emma Montgomery (High)	
Katherine Wood (Headteacher)	
Kyla Anderson (High)	
Mhairi Magee (High)	

1. Welcome

This was a re-run of the attempted AGM in August, when it did not prove possible to elect a committee.

Abby welcomed and thanked everyone for their attendance at the Parent Council AGM and raised again the importance of trying to get more parents to try and attend the meetings. Abby has asked if anyone can take on being Chair as due to her own work commitments she is extremely busy. She remains happy to give her help, support and guidance when needed e.g. in writing letters to Highland Council. She set up a Drop Box account last year to store FPC documents online and make things easier to pass on. She will send out the link again. Abby stressed without a fully functional Committee there can be no Parent council.

2. Election of Office Bearers

Chair – Donna Weare, proposed Abby Hardwick, seconded Katherine Wood

Vice-Chair – Fraser Mackay remains from last year, re-elected unopposed,

Secretary - Caroline Easthope, proposed Donna Weare, seconded Abby Hardwick

Treasurer – Caroline Watson remains from last year, re-elected unopposed.

Named committee members:

Mhairi Magee, Emma Montgomery, Kyla Anderson, Vera Macaskill, Abby Hardwick

Beverley Cushman and Katie Hunter (Tongue Police) agreed to be co-opted.

There was a discussion about the need to make parents aware that all PC meetings are open to parents and the PC needs their support.

3. Head Teacher's Update

Katherine Wood made the following points:

Finances

Due to the Highland Council reducing budgets / taking away funds this will be problematic. Farr ensured they used the remains of last year's allocated budget to stock up on stationary and other vital supplies.

Farr remains at level Green financially, though this could easily change with the budget cut to 60% of last year's.

Staffing

Gaelic Post has been re advertised.

2 PSAs required. Farr and Melvich Nurseries both asked back in May for permission to recruit staff. Continued full-time operation of the nursery is at risk due to lack of staff.

Music Room

Unfortunately the music room (temporary classroom erected many years ago) is out of action for the foreseeable future to ensure health and safety to staff and pupils. An alternative area which is safe has been found within the same building so pupils can continue with their music, although it is unknown how long this can continue. It is not a suitable long term solution. A new build would be ideal to go in place of the old music room which is dangerous and not fit for purpose due to a roof which is structurally unsound and the amount of damp and mould spores present which pose health risk factors and dangers to staff and pupils. School has been requesting a replacement building for a long time.

Police Drug Awareness Talk.

Due to just how easy drugs and alcohol are things are to come by, Katherine would like invite the Police into school to hold a meeting / discussion with pupils to make them aware of the dangers, and also to offer a Police / parent session.

Snacks

Healthy snacks costing £1 will be offered at after-school clubs.

Calendar

Katherine passed round for everyone to see the beautiful photographs taken by pupils which have been chosen for the school calendar.

Other

New primary and S1 pupils have all settled in pupils also settled well.

Primary resources required – specialist reading books designed for pupils with dyslexia.

Mental Health Issues – support to be offered specifically on Mental Health Day Thursday October the 10th.

4. Upcoming School Events

- 3rd of October Ness Book fest.

- 7th of October Work experience week Student Awards (Live Q's & A's) 8pm start.
- 8th of October 16 +information evening.
- Sale of Work on the 9th of October @2pm-helpers required 3-4 would be ideal. Donna Weare volunteered to help. Any donations towards the stalls and raffle are much appreciated. If collection required please contact the school 2 weeks prior to the sale.
- November Coffee morning / afternoon date to be arranged?
- January Burns Night, date to be arranged.

5. Fund Raising Ideas

- Coffee morning in November, date to be arranged?
- Burns night in January date to be arranged?
- Primary design your own Christmas Cards
- Bettyhill Bake-Off
- Taste The North - (Goats cheese - Honey - Brambles - Gin)
- Buy A Square £5 each - Winning number £100
- Pre-loved Uniform Stall at the Sale of Work
- Farr High Calendar photographed and designed by pupils

6. Thanks

Abby thanked everyone for their attendance and support.

7. Date of next meeting

Wednesday the 30th of October at 7pm.

Action List		
Date of Meeting	**Action**	**Status**
Action 1	Katherine will contact the relevant people to request permission to re-advertise the vacancies needed for Nursery, Primary and High	Open
Action 2	Donna / Abby will contact Highland Council via Linda Munro about the state of the Music Room.	Open
Action 3	Donna / Caroline E to send out requests for support from parents to support parent council.	Open
Action 4	Donna / Caroline E will contact parents to ask for help and support by putting forward their concerns in writing to the Highland Council, to stress the importance and need for a music classroom at Farr High, as currently they haven't got a fully functional one.	Open