

Queensferry High School Parent Council Meeting
2 October
7pm at QHS



Minutes

Present :

Staff:

Craig Downie, Ben Lewis

Parents/Carers

Claire Whyte, Richard Oakley, Hannah Dickson, Rania Serifi, Sarah Baird, Graeme McKinley, Meran Crawford, Kasia Banaszewska-Diaz, Adedeji Bayo, Peter Jackson

Minutes:

Claire Whyte (has requested no fee)

Apologies:

Emma Heath, Johanna Jenkins, Morag Mclachlan, Steph Wilson, Louise Collingwood, Peter Lord, Susanne Urquhart, Stacy Taylor, Alison Walsh, Jillian Langton, Bruce Whitehead, Ali Walker, CEC Councillors

1.	Welcome & Apologies	Actions
	Claire welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted apologies.	Info
2.	Approval of Previous Minutes	
	Approval of the minutes sent by Emma was proposed by Rania and seconded by Richard.	Info
3.	Co-chairs Update	
	<p>Updates on previous actions shared as below:</p> <p><u>Actions from Meeting on 26 May all completed.</u></p> <p><u>Funds in Parent Council Account</u></p> <p>Carry forward to next meeting</p>	CW/EH/CD
4.	Treasurer's Report	
	Johanna advised that she hasn't been able to complete the transfer of the Bank details as yet and will contact Susan Evans to complete this. As such, there is nothing to report for this meeting.	Info
5.	Headteacher Update	
	<p><u>Attainment</u> – Following on from the information on attainment which was shared at the AGM, Craig was able to show the full statistics now the Insight [correct name?] data has been provided to the school.</p> <p>Attainment across COE locality is up and very strong results for QHS. The SLT are delighted with the progress and particularly for the S4 results as they are the first year group to follow the new curriculum at QHS.</p>	

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	<p>Craig spent time talking through what all the of the statistics mean and how they are grouped and what they focus on. The statistics are based on the best five results attained.</p> <p>Craig also shared statistics for Literacy and Numeracy as well as attainment versus areas of deprivation but noting that QHS has no decile 1 or 2.</p> <p>Craig expects that the school will achieve even better results next year.</p> <p><u>Staffing</u> – Craig has completed the recruitment of a new Biology PT teacher, Computing PT teacher and a temporary teacher for Drama. The school is fully staffed across each curriculum area.</p> <p>Michelle Gordon who has been on secondment to COEC has taken a new role at COEC and this means that the school will require to recruit a permanent DHT. Kevin Thomas has been covering Michelle’s secondment as DHT. The job advert will go live in October.</p> <p><u>School Website</u> – the new school website is due to go live imminently and we were given a sneak preview of how it looks and the contents and functionality.</p> <p><u>COEC Quality Assurance Report September 2025</u> – following the visit from COEC QA which is required to take place 18 months after an inspection, Craig advised that he is very happy with the findings and that they are really helpful as it gives confidence to the SLT and staff that they are achieving the goals and to go further. They will be focusing on questioning and higher order thinking with the pupils.</p> <p><u>Social Subjects Faculty Review</u> – the Social Subjects Faculty recently hosted Curriculum Leads and DHTs from four other schools which went really well. This was a lot of work for Joe Moore and team but they were very happy with the feedback.</p> <p><u>Sponsored Walk</u> – great event, well attended and good weather.</p> <p><u>School show</u> – Craig said this is the highlight of the year and commended staff and pupils for their hard work and effort. This year the school show will be Grease and Craig is keen to ensure that the cluster P7s come to see the show as well as the S1s during the school day.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>PC Reps Update</u></p>	
	<p><u>CEC Locality update</u> – nothing to report</p> <p><u>Cluster Primary Update</u> – Claire and Emma continue to stay in regular contact with our local primary school parent councils but haven’t had a subsequent meeting due to lack of progress with the extension. However we will reach out to the parent councils and see if there is anything they would like to meet to discuss before the end of the year.</p> <p><u>PSA</u> – The Christmas Fair will be Saturday 22 November. The PSA would be delighted to have as many helpers as possible. Meran asked about who to contact about getting a table and Rania will put her in contact with the appropriate people.</p>	<p>Info</p> <p>Info</p> <p>Info</p> <p>Rania</p>

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	<p><u>Queensferry Community Council</u> – Graeme advised that the High Street refurbishment project starts next week Phase 1 will go from Seals Craig to the turning point. A phased approach is being taken but its not been confirmed whether the work will stop over Christmas. The High Street will remain open though.</p> <p>No further news on the Burgess Park Early Years Proposal.</p> <p>COEC have published a proposal for an Active Travel Route from QHS to the new primary school. The Community Council have raised a concern about the design for Scotstoun Avenue and discussions are ongoing. In general the concept is good.</p> <p>The new primary school for Builyeon Road is due to open in 2028. It has a nice design given there were some limitations on costing. There will be access to the school for community use and discussions are ongoing on this. The catchment will include some of the existing Echline Primary catchment. Capacity was not known.</p> <p>The Community Council took 15 young people down to the Larr (?) Housing Trust which is where the old Port Edgar Naval Barracks were located. The Trust are keen to engage with the local young people. The Trust told the young people about the history of the land and the Trust’s charitable purposes and who they aim to rent the properties to. The young people were invited to lay some bricks and got to go into the former prison.</p> <p><u>Kirkliston Community Council</u> - Steph had emailed to thank Kenny Manson for attending their August meeting. Everyone found this really helpful and they hope to ask QHS at a later point for a further attendee.</p> <p>Craig advised that Rotary are wanting to carry out outdoor activities with young people in Kirkliston and SQ and they are working with them on this.</p>	Info
7.	<u>AOB</u>	
	<p><u>Question re buses</u> – is it known what number of buses will be used when the school is extended? Currently there are 8 buses but this may go up to 12. COEC are looking at the efficiency of the buses and the number of pick up points in Kirkliston.</p> <p><u>Question re course choices following feedback from S5 parents to their Parent Council rep</u> – Craig explained how the course choices work and that from a pupil point of view there aren’t columns. It can be difficult when a course is oversubscribed or where a new S5 hasn’t achieved a sufficient grade to proceed with the next level of a subject but the school work with the young people to agree an alternative pathway.</p> <p><u>Parent Pay outage over the weekend</u> – now resolved. Craig asked parents to note that they won’t have young people going without their lunch so if there is a problem with Parent Pay, the school can sort out the cost of lunch with the family. Rania noted that it is easier to use Parent Pay via the browser than the app.</p>	

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	<p>After school sports clubs information is now available and the after school non-sports clubs will be published shortly.</p> <p>A parent had asked whether a microwave is available for young people and Craig confirmed that this was not the case and this would not change. There are plenty of lunch options for the young people in and outside the school.</p> <p>A parent advised that they had seen young people cycling to youth club without bike lights and asked that this message is passed on.</p> <p>An update on the gym hall was requested – the flooring and contractors have been on site all week and it is hoped the work will take two weeks and be done by half term.</p> <p>A question was asked about the extension and Craig advised he hasn't heard anything further from COEC on this. However COEC are coming out to the school to view the cafeteria and buses provision. Claire took an action to check with Councillor Lewis Younie for an update. Craig is pushing for an update on when the temporary accommodation will go on site.</p>	<p>Claire/Emma</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><u>Next meeting</u></p>	
	<p>Wednesday 12 November, 7-8.30 QHS</p>	

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