

**Elgin High School Parent Council**  
**Meeting held on 30 January 2018 at 7.00pm**

<b>Attendees:</b>	Jillian Johnston Judith McIntyre Yvette Taylor (Vice Chair) Cllr John Divers	Patrick Leonard (Chair) Jenny Petrie Hugh McCulloch (HT)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Mary Dow (Secretary) Cllr Graham Leadbitter Kay Laing	Kirsty Anderson (Treasurer) Gail Ewan

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Previous Minutes – 7 November 2017</b></p> <p>These were approved. Proposed: Jillian Johnston      Seconded: Patrick Leonard</p>	
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies were noted.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Schools for the Future Review</b></p> <p>Elgin High School will have an authority visit on 21 and 22 February. Hugh McCulloch advised the school is preparing for the visit and he is sharing information with staff and students as to what's involved. The visit will include observing classes, learning walks around the building and talking to pupils and teachers. 3 QIOs, Stewart McLauchlan, Karen Lees and Janet Cornall will combine observations from staff, pupils and parents and bring it all together. They will speak to various focus groups, including the Parent Council. 4 members of the Parent Council expressed an interest to attend the SFF Parent Focus Group, they are Jenny Petrie, Judith Trew, Yvette Taylor and Pat Leonard. If any parent would like to be part of the Parent Forum group, please come along to school from 4pm to 4.45pm on Wednesday 21 February when parents will be asked various questions on their views. They are also looking at sustainability in all schools. Feedback from the recent survey will also be used and compared with answers from parents.</p>	
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Vision and Values</b></p> <p>Students have been working on this up until Christmas time. Groups of 6 students were given a pack of words and asked to put them in a triangle of 6 beliefs – what do they want to strive for and be recognised for. These were captured on a tablet and transferred to an excel spreadsheet and ranked. Students were asked if they wanted to change “working together for success” Hugh McCulloch advised the results were interesting in that the older pupils were happier to change, which was surprising because they had been a school longer. Hugh challenged the Parent Forum to make their own triangle of beliefs and gave everyone 21 words. After an in depth discussion, top 6 words selected were Resilience, Included, Aspiration, Responsibility, Achievement, Confidence.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>New School Building</b></p> <p>Hugh McCulloch advised they are currently going through the snagging list with the biggest problem being the noise become created by the technical department backing onto the admin office. An Acoustician has been on site and work will be done during the Easter holidays to address the issue. The old building should be demolished and the site completed by the end of June.</p>	

6.	<p><b>Moray Council 2018 Budget Consultation</b></p> <p>A meeting will be held on 14 February when Councillors will decide on where the budget cuts will happen as they have to find £15 million in savings over 2 years with at least £6m this year. This could potentially affect school libraries, technicians and home school link workers. Cllr Divers advised Education &amp; Social Care unfortunately seem to be taking a big hit in the proposed budget cuts.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Parent Council Finance</b></p> <p>There has been no movement in the bank account since the last meeting. Patrick raised the question of fundraising as there has been nothing done over the last few years because of the new build. Hugh McCulloch will take this suggestion to the Events Management Group.</p>	HM
8.	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>Yvette Taylor attended the Moray Parent Forum on 17 January. The items discussed were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moray Early Learning and Childcare Expansion. This is Scottish Government initiative with the aim of closing the attainment gap. Currently pre-school children (age 3-5) receive 600 hours of paid childcare per annum. This will increase in 3 phases up until August 2020 up to 1140 hours available for 50 weeks per year which will also include vulnerable 2 year olds. Concern was expressed from a few attendees regarding extra teaching costs, lunch costs and toileting issues.</li> <li>• Empowering schools – A consultation will take place on the provision of the Education (Scotland) Bill. The aims are to improve education and life chances of children and young people and to close the attainment gap. The 5 themes are Head Teachers Charter, Parental and Community Engagement, Pupil Participation, Regional Improvement Collaborative and Education Workforce Council for Staff. There were discussions about the pressures on teachers and the teacher shortage. A support structure will be imposed with less Local Authority and will be more like English schools. The Local Authority would be HR &amp; finance only, less education support. There is no planned strategy to achieve this. Parental and Community Engagement was discussed with possible additional duties on parents.</li> </ul> <p>Jillian Johnston raised an issue with a small group of students' throwing snowballs / litter at cars travelling on Edgar Road during lunchtime. Hugh McCulloch was disappointed to hear this and will deal with the matter in school.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Dates of Future Meetings/events</b></p> <p>Parent Council meeting – Tuesday 13 March 2018 at 7pm</p>	