**Mearns Academy Community Group (MACG)**

**- Minutes of Meeting –**

**AGM**

**5th September 2018 at 7pm**

**PRESENT –** Tom Lawson, Ruth McGill, Gillian Milne, Gareth Campbell, Katrin Lewis, Councillor George Carr, Nanette Brown, Jim Hendry, Clare Ptaszek, Margo Titmuss, Bev MacKinnon, Arlene Dickson, Fiona Morrison, Lindsay Cochrane, Kim Tait, Sheila Morgan, Patricia MacEachern, Hazel Rickman, Angie Crichton, Jane Mitchell, Charlotte McWhinnie, Isabelle Riddoch

**APOLOGIES –** Lynne Howie, Amanda Wilson, Jo Mackinnon, Laura Baird, Suzanne Laskiewicz, Suzanne MacDonald, Councillor Jeff Hutchison

**WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

Tom welcomed everyone along to our AGM & Ruth read out the apologies

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Gillian mentioned an addition to the minutes on the Treasurers Report that the accounts were approved by the committee last year at the AGM.

**HEAD TEACHERS REPORT**

Gareth Campbell said it was an honour to be Head Teacher of Mearns Academy and wanted to wish Dave Martindale all the best in his retirement and continue with a positive working relationship that he established with the parent council and office bearers.

* Attainment – This year saw some of the best attainment Mearns Academy has ever achieved. Insight data not live as yet but the unconfirmed data suggests that we are performing above the Aberdeenshire average. We had a number of pupils who achieved 7 national qualifications - one pupil achieving 7 A’s and a number of pupils achieving 5 A’s at Higher.
* Staffing – Mearns Academy returned in August fully staffed but there were a number of staff changes throughout the year in various departments but we are presently in a very strong position.
* Priorities – these will include raising attainment whilst closing the poverty related attainment gap, developing the young workforce, curriculum for excellence and GIRFEC.
* Property – The ASL facilities have been upgraded to include a kitchen, office space and sensory room. The football pitches are still unusable but an independent consultant has been in to take core samples and the results will be fed back asap.
* School roll rising and currently at 686.
* Gareth Campbell also said he’d be relooking at the vision values and aims of the school and asking the questions ‘What should we keep doing? What should we stop doing? And what should we start doing? These are questions he’ll put to his staff and ask young people and parents.
* He finished by saying he’s delighted to be head teacher and hopes to continue to work in an open and honest manner with the parent council in the years ahead.

**CHAIRMANS REPORT**

Tom said this had been a very fast year and was in a fortunate position to be able to attend a number of events during the day at the school as well as in the evenings. The numbers joining our facebook page have increased aswell as subscribing to emails. He thanked all the parents and guardians who have given up their time to attend our MAPC meetings throughout the year and helped with various fundraising events. The year began with various problems with buses which have now thankfully been resolved, however he wanted to thank Mr Martindale and the senior leadership team who were able to go and collect the pupils most affected and bring them into school, especially during the times of the prelims. Tom also attended a meeting at Portlethen Academy to meet other chairpersons and senior members of Aberdeenshire Council Education Department. There have been various events throughout the year where the pupils showcased their talents and it was a treat being able to see all of these. Tom was involved with Katrin Lewis & Gillian Milne with the selection procedure for the new head teacher and the year ended with the annual prize giving. Tom made reference to the open and transparent relationship between Mr Martindale, his senior Management team and the teachers and wished Gareth Campbell all the best with his new team and very best wishes for the future. Tom finally thanked the office bearers for all their hard work throughout the year.

**TREASURERS REPORT**

Gillian printed off income and expenditure sheets for the past year which are available by request. Everyone was happy with the way the finances were looking and were run.

**ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

CHAIR – Nanette Brown, Proposed by Tom Lawson, 2nd Gillian Milne

VICE CHAIR – Katrin Lewis, Proposed by Nanette Brown, 2nd Margo Titmuss

TREASURER – Jim Hendry, Proposed by Gillian Milne, 2nd Lindsay Cochrane

200 Club – Bev MacKinnon, Proposed by Katrin Lewis, 2nd Tom Lawson

SECRETARY – Ruth McGill, Proposed by Tom Lawson, 2nd Margo Titmuss

**ELECTION OF COMMITTEE**

Everyone who attended the meeting were happy to be committee members. Everyone wrote down their email addresses and mobile numbers to update our records.

**FUNDRAISING – PHIL & ALLY CONCERT**

Ticket sales have been much slower this year so it was asked of everyone to try & push for the sale of more tickets and advertise as much as possible over the coming week. Raffle prizes and volunteers at the event on Friday 14th September would also be grateful.

**AOCB**

Councillor Carr firstly wanted to thank Tom Lawson for running such good meetings with great attendances over the past few years.

* The pitches are being worked on and have been re-grassed but the hot weather made it difficult over the summer however, Landscape services are involved and new fertilizer is being applied which should hopefully make a difference. This is still on-going.
* There will be a presentation from the chief inspector regarding substance abuse following recent tragic events with a mearns academy pupil. It was asked to be particularly vigilant with our youngsters and try to keep them aware of the dangers of drugs.
* A meeting took place with the Laurencekirk community trust so a new flyover is imminent and the school and new facilities should have a voice in this.
* Jim Hendry asked about the football pitches and what the future plans are as they’ve never been used after they were opened 4 years ago. There’s been a problem with fertility and soil samples have been taken to try to work out why clover keeps taking over and killing off the grass. This is still on-going but they are trying to resolve this problem.
* There are still issues with the Marykirk bus being late but Kim Tait is constantly emailing and phoning and this will be put to the P.T.U.
* It was asked if the Parent council would consider funding sports tops for specific school sporting events. Gareth Campbell said he’d look into seeing what tops were already in the school for an upcoming swimming event but costs need to be looked at but would be good if there were tops pupils could use representing the school.
* Arlene Dickson asked if the subject of bullying could be looked into with the school policies. Gareth Campbell said this is included in the 3 year improvement plan.
* Katrin Lewis presented Tom Lawson with a bottle and thanked him for going above and beyond the call of duty as chairperson over the past 2 years and wished Nanette all the best.

MEETING CLOSED AT 8.05pm

**NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY 3rd OCTOBER @ 7pm**