

Falkirk High School Parent Council Minutes

Monday 22nd September 2025

Meeting held at FHS - 1900 hrs.

Agenda item	Detail	Action
(1) Welcome and Apologies for Absence	Attendees: Karen Findlay, David Hack, Stuart Kelly (Depute Headteacher), Ruth Mcall (Treasurer), Clare McLaughlin (Depute Headteacher), Jen McPherson (Depute Headteacher), Robert Menzies, Cathryn Miller, Fiona Shearer, Dipendra Shrees, Preetima Shrees, Russell Smith, Shona Thomas, Rachel Walker & Kirsty Young (Staff Rep). Apologies: Erica Cooper, Christine Dougall, Leona Hepburn, Gillian Millar & Leona Hepburn.	
(2) Minutes of Previous Meeting 20.05.25 and Matters Arising	The minutes from the previous meeting of 20th May 2025 were approved. There was nothing further to add.	
(3) Headteacher's 7 Minute Briefing	During the briefing the following points were highlighted: - The school environment has been improved by installing brand new kitchens over the summer, a new hair and beauty salon, new home economics classrooms and new astroturf. The school radio is now up and running and broadcasting every Thursday morning. - The FHS Goes Wild programme gives opportunities for outdoor learning. The S2 residential will now be an annual event following the successful introduction of that this year. - Falkirk High School has been recognised as an Apple distinguished school, and is only the second school in Falkirk to receive the award. - The maximising attainment evening which recently took place was a success. Information was given about study skills workshops and information about courses, learning styles and memory. Information was given about use of Aspire and materials are online. - Upcoming dates were discussed. - Changes in staffing was discussed, with all outgoing staff members having been replaced. - Staff and pupils have created a learning routine which was discussed later in the meeting.	
(4) Attainment & Achievement	- Robert Menzies gave an update on Falkirk High School's performance against a virtual comparator which compares each young person with 1,000 other young people with the same characteristics. This involves comparing like with like and is the comparator used by school inspectors. - FHS are performing significantly above the comparator for S4 and there has been an improvement on last year. As well as the number of qualifications received increasing, the grades have also improved. - Performance is better than the virtual comparator for S5 and S6 as well and this demonstrates staff and pupil commitment to learning.	
(5) Beauty Salon	- The Parent Council were taken up to see the beauty salon which now contains hair washing sinks, hairdressing chairs and tables and equipment for nails. - This was first introduced as a wider achievement option and the	

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	school are currently looking at the possibility of a Nat 5 qualification. • An office member is a trained beautician and a member of the P.E staff is qualified in gel nails and both are supporting the young people. • There is an Instagram page “Feel Fabulous in Falkirk” for the beauty salon which Parent Council members were asked to follow. • The hair salon will allow young people to develop skills in customer service and perhaps leadership awards. • The school is looking at potentially expanding into barbering and creating a reception area to give more opportunities for young people to develop skills.	
(6) School Improvement Planning	• Clare McLaughlin gave an update about the improvement priorities for both the short term and medium term (next two to three years). • The plan was created by looking at parent/pupils/staff views and using focus groups. • Including the medium-term vision provides more flexibility and there will be a review in December. • There are three pillars which Falkirk Council is focused on, (a) curriculum, learning, teaching and assessment; (b) culture, ethos, relationships, equality and inclusion, and (c) improving outcomes). The plan sets out the priorities for each pillar.	
(7) Learning & Teaching Update	• Kelly Whittington expanded on this. The focus is to improve the quality of the learning experience for the young people and supporting staff to provide this. • A pupil learning and teaching ambassador group gave views to help shape the policy. • This has resulted in a new learning routine and a video has been produced to explain this. • The young people highlighted that teachers could use more straightforward language with the pupils. • FHS is striving for excellence and has a visit organised to go to Hyndland, which is the only school to achieve excellence in Scotland in twelve years.	
(8) Parental Engagement Policy	• Claire McLaughlin circulated a draft policy which was prepared following a significant amount of research and information from focus groups. • The draft policy will be circulated amongst parents generally and they will be encouraged to provide any feedback if there is anything missing from this.	
(9) Summer Fayre Review	• Fiona Shearer confirmed that the summer fayre being earlier in the month and earlier in the day did not seem to cause a reduction in numbers. • The summer fayre is organised by the Community Champion Group and Fiona will liaise with this group. • The profit from the last summer fayre was £1,924. • Date and time for the 2026 summer fayre will be discussed at the next meeting.	

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(10) AOCB	• The bank charges introduced by Bank of Scotland were discussed. On a monthly basis these amount to £4.50, but increased by approximately £15 when the cash was deposited following the summer fayre. Other parent councils do not seem to be charged by their bank (Virgin) and Ruth McCall is to look into this, particularly to check whether incoming direct debits can transfer over without any action on the part of parents. • The drop-in numbers of the 200 club was discussed and Ruth McCall is to provide information to enable the school to prepare a flyer to drum up business. It was agreed that this should not be done until the bank account point is resolved so correct and current details can be provided for the bank account. • It was confirmed that Satchel One is going to become defunct and information will be made available on Teams for just now. • There was some discussion about spending the funds amassed in the parent council bank account. Stuart Kelly is to come back to the parent council group with proposals for expenditure. • The school are considering amending their policy to include shorts as part of the school uniform. • Fiona Shearer updated parents on the consultation for the proposed changes for enhanced provision in primary schools. Essentially enhanced provision is at full capacity and the current fifteen resources available will be closed and redistributed to the 47 different primary schools in the area. There are no additional resources being made available. There is a meeting taking place about this on 30th September. • There was discussion about SQA rebranding as Qualification Scotland but the school has as yet no further information about this. It will be provided once it is available. The structure surrounding qualifications is still the same at this point. • The school will re-send the code for the Fusion app for pre-ordering lunches. • The MCR pathways mentoring programme provides mentoring in groups for pupils in S1 and S2 and one to one mentoring for S3 and up. This involves volunteering for one hour per week to meet with a young person to build their confidence and ambition. It will take place during term time and generally in the school grounds. Any parents with contacts who might be available to assist were urged to ask them to get in touch.	
(10) Date of Next Meeting	• Date of next meeting is on Tuesday the 18th of November 2025 at 7pm.	