

## CULTER SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL AGM – 29 MAY 2008

### CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

On behalf of the Parent Council, I would like to welcome you all here tonight for this, the first AGM of the newly formed Culter School Parent Council.

This has been a very interesting and at times time-consuming year for the old School Board and the new Parent Council. Following the final AGM of the School Board and the PTA a year ago a lot has changed. Immediately after that AGM those parents that had volunteered to be involved in the formation of the new Parent Council came together as a 'Working Group' with the remit to draw up an appropriate constitution for the Culter School Parent Council. With input from many sources – not least from Sandra Davidowski and Sharon Stronach (to whom I am very grateful for their efforts) – a draft constitution was presented to the Parent Forum for consultation before submission to the Local Authority in July 2007. I was delighted that our draft was accepted almost verbatim by the Authority and it was formally adopted as the Culter School Parent Council Constitution at the beginning of September 2007. Once accepted, a list of volunteers was obtained from the Parent Forum and the first meeting of the Parent Council per se was held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2007. At that meeting it was agreed that we would approach the new Parent Council in a similar fashion to the structure of the previous School Board and PTA, and to that end four members volunteered their services to be primarily involved with the more 'formal' aspects of the Parent Council with the remaining members wishing to be involved only in the fund-raising activities and forming a sub-group as per the constitution. The Parent Council continues to consider other persons from within the community to join the Parent Council and we are delighted that so far Dr. Harris has agreed to be part of our 'team' and we value his input

Since November both groups have been extremely busy in their respective areas. The fund-raising sub-group – ably led by their 'chair' Alison Yule – has once again worked very hard to raise much needed funds for the school – culminating in the very successful Spring Fayre in March. I am sure Alison will elaborate in more detail shortly what other activities have been successful, and Dawn will inform us how much has been raised and what projects have been supported during the year.

At the beginning of 2008, two members of the Parent Council became involved in the selection for interview for the vacant Deputy Headteacher's position following the departure of Mrs. Wyer. Four candidates of very high calibre were short-listed and following interviews we were delighted to be able to appoint J . . . to the position.

Another issue that has concentrated the minds of the Parent Council over the past few months is the proposed budget cuts by Aberdeen City Council and the impact those cuts would have on education of children in City schools. We have been in regular contact with the Parent Councils of other City schools and have supported their lobbying of both the Council and politicians alike. Clare Danielian and I have also attended briefings given by the Council over the past few weeks on the budget and latterly on the Council's strategy for the support of Parent Councils. Unlike some City schools I am pleased that the effect of the budget cuts to Culter school is limited to financial cut-backs and not the loss of any teaching staff.

Two weeks ago Clare Danielian and I (as representatives for Culter School on the 3Rs Reference Group) were fortunate enough to visit the site of the new Cults Academy and were highly impressed with the progress of the building. It promises to be a wonderful

facility for children moving from Culter Primary and at present is still on target to open in October 2009.

I cannot fail to mention the report produced by HMle following their inspection of the school in January this year. You will all by now have had time to read that report and see how impressed the inspectors were by almost everything they saw at the school. On behalf of the Parent Council and all the parents of children at Culter School I would like to minute our appreciation to Mrs. Crossan and all the staff for all their hard work in providing a school in our community of which we can all be proud.

Finally, having been chair of both the School Board and the Parent Council for the past three years or more, I have decided that it is time for me to stand down and hand over to someone else, although I am happy to continue as a member of the Parent Council. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone on the previous School Board and the Parent Council for their support over the last three years.

Alan Veale

29 May 2008

**Please note the new School Board Chair is Clare Danielian**