

## **Deans Community High School**

### **Parent Council Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday 24 September 2019**

#### 1. Present:

Pauline Allison, Gemma Thomson, Angela Ritchie, Mark Cockburn, Linda Irvine, Sandra Fallon, Anne Runciman, Caroline Bennett, Janice Ritchie, Ali Hatcher, Heather Marriott, Patricia Miller, Susan Begley, Anne Chalal

#### 2. Apologies:

None – all present

#### 3. Further Education Feedback:

Gemma Thomson, Teacher and PTC Support attended the Parent Council Meeting to consult and gather views from the Parents perspective in relation to the Further and Higher Education Event she had organised. This year she had made some changes to the Event. Parents and students would have the opportunity to choose a series of 15-minute slots where people would rotate around different talks. Gemma also consulted Angela Ritchie regarding the UCAS process from the Parent/Student perspective. Feedback was positive and constructive. Gemma will reflect on suggestions made by the Parent Council when planning next year's Event.

Mark Cockburn asked if there was a possibility for Parents to attend at a different time or receive follow up information. Parents are not always able to attend at the same time as older pupils within school. It was suggested that younger pupils (S1-S3) do not attend as more focus should be on those pupils from S4 to S6.

Discussion took place related to Leaps process and merits of all children attending. Gemma spoke in more detail about the process.

#### 4. Funding Music Department

The School's music Department missed a potential slot to perform at Chuck and George's Big Weekend Event. There may still be a chance to request funding even though the School will not be performing. This is going to be further investigated by Paul Christie, PTC Expressive Arts.

#### 5. Cedarbank School

The Parent Council looked at the Consultation process and discussed the relocation of Cedarbank School. It was agreed that the current building was not fit for purpose. The School is currently located over 3 sites - Cedarbank School (generally S1-S3), Deans Community High School (generally S4 and S5) and Armadale Academy (generally S6). The new building will be a purpose-built accommodation offering S1-S6 stage education. The preferred site would be within the estate of James Young High School. The Aim would be to optimise the educational experience of all Students. There will be no financial impact on Deans Community High as a result of the proposed relocation.

## 6. Head Teachers Report:

### 1. Staffing changes

Probationer Teachers this session:

Mr Bee (Art & Design)  
Mr Wight (Chemistry)  
Mr McBride (Modern Studies/History)  
Ms Garrod (Maths)  
Ms Luke (Music).

Other new staff

Mr Cummings (Computing)

Ms Lynch (Business Education)

Other:

Mr Krausen (Maths) appointed PTC Maths at Inveralmond CHS

Miss Lammie (Bus Ed) on mat leave

Paula Sinclair (PSA) appointed PSW at West Lothian College – leaves in October

Currently Advertised: PSW, Temp Music Teacher (for S Duncan's maternity leave)

### 2. Attainment

5 or more National 5 or equivalent	57%
1 or more Highers or equivalent	67%
3 or more Highers or equivalent	51%
5 or more Highers or equivalent	34%
1 or more Advanced Highers or equivalent	16%

## 7. VSE

Aspects of school evaluated:

Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching & assessment	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Raising attainment & achievement	satisfactory

Action plan being agreed with WLC

## 8. Questions

- Dinner queue for S1 is causing concern for some parents. It was suggested that some children are not getting lunch. Mrs Allison will ask SMT to review system currently being used.

- App usage for contacting school, which is the correct one to use. Will all information be on the most current?
- Mobile phone usage in classes. What is the policy & can this be reviewed in the future?

8. Parent Forum:

The next Parent Council Forum will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> October at West Calder. Angela Ritchie asked if any member could let her know if anyone could attend, giving feedback at the next Parent Council Meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November

(The date was changed from Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November due to a conflict with S4 Parents Evening)