

Deans Community High School Parent Council

**Tuesday 18th March 2014 at 6pm
Meeting Room within DCHS.**

Present

Chair: Sue Mackie
Treasurer: Susan Hodge
Secretary: Kirsteen Salen
Head Teacher: Susan Cook
Parent members: Jacqueline Baird
Anne Runciman
Jill Robertson
Alison Smith

Councillors: Cllr Andrew Miller
Cllr Anne McMillan

Welcome

The meeting was opened by Sue Mackie who welcomed all present.

Apologies

No apologies received.

Minutes from Previous Meeting

School website – link to parent council

Susan Cook reported that the Parent Council link is now on the school website.

Alison has asked for a written piece to be submitted giving details of the council and that a members photo is also attached.

Study Leave

Susan Cook informed all present that a letter will be distributed to parents of S4 students on Thursday 20th March informing them of arrangements for this year's study leave. Each student will receive a letter personal to them detailing how many days can be taken. This will be dependent on how many Nat 5 exams they are sitting – 2 days for each. Susan Cook will attach a covering letter encouraging students to attend at school as often as possible.

S5 & S6 will remain as normal this year with this changing in line with S4 next year.

The action in the previous minutes in relation to the letter being composed for Simply Play should have read Sue Mackie and not Susan Hodge.

Treasurers Report

Susan Hodge reported that the following amounts were raised for tea & coffees at the recent parents nights –

S5 – 15/01 - £7.06

S4 – 29/01 - £7.15

S2 – 11/02 - £32.29

Susan Hodge reported that the money raised from tea & coffee sales initially started in order to purchase additional student lockers. She has recently made contact with David Dodds querying the possibility of the lockers being manufactured and any costings involved.

Head Teachers Update

Staffing

Susan Cook reported that staffing has now settled and that a full time Librarian is now in position with the library being open every day/all day, including lunch & break times.

Easter School

The timetable will be distributed week beginning 17th March, all days over the Easter break will be covered.

Battlefield Trip

Nine students, five staff and support staff will be travelling to a First World War Battlefield in early September. The students travelling are all looked after children with the trip being funded by West Lothian Social Services and Historic Scotland.

Recent School Achievements

Susan Cook congratulated all students and staff who were involved in recent events -

S1&2 Handball Team – Winners of the National competition.

Giant Heptathlon Team – Winners of Regional competition – National final at Glasgow Emirates Arena on Friday 21st March.

Concert Band – Silver Plus at the National Finals.

West Lothian Band, comprising of students from DCHS – Gold Plus at National Finals.

F1 Team Technology Challenge – two teams from DCHS entered and made it through to the National Finals, one team have since competed in the British finals in Birmingham, resulting in them being invited to represent Scotland at the World Championships in Abu Dhabi in September.

This trip will cost approx £1200-£1500 per person but some fundraising would be done to assist with this. Any ideas further sponsorship would be appreciated although it was noted that the car had no further space available.

Susan Cook praised that hard work and commitment by all involved in the given events.

Scholar

The school are in the process of raising awareness on Scholar.

Created by Heriot-Watt University based in Edinburgh, SCHOLAR provides computer-based learning materials to support teaching and learning in Maths, Sciences, Languages and Business subjects. The SCHOLAR programme is designed to encourage student independent learning. It is for use by S4,5&6 students.

Further information can be accessed via the school website.

Parent Council Matters

Sue Mackie started by congratulating all involved in the F1 challenge as she was aware of the time and commitment put into the event.

Simply Play

As per previous discussions – Simply Play, formally Deanos utilise the use of the school canteen after school and during school holidays. In the past they have relocated on the schools request to allow for use of the canteen for school events. However following a review of procedure by Simply Play it would appear that although they have authority to utilise other areas within the school, the canteen as the key space must be available at the same time thus stopping the school using the area. It was suggested at a previous meeting that as representatives for parents, the council compose a letter to be sent to the director of education asking for this to be reviewed to allow the use of the area by the school.

A draft letter was composed by Sue Mackie and a hard copy was read by all present. A general discussion took place and the final draft was approved and will be sent to Jim Cameron, Director of Education for his information and attention.

AOCB

Jacqueline Baird informed the council that at a recent parents night at Bathgate Academy, parents were able to access an online diary allowing them to book slots with teachers direct. A general discussion took place with all aspects being discussed. Susan Cook stated that she will be looking into this for use at Deans in the future, however the program is expensive.

Easy Fundraising

Kirsteen Salen suggested that the school open an Easy Fund Raising account allowing parents to purchase items online where the school gets cashback towards funds.

Kirsteen provided an example information card used by another school.

Susan Cook will look into the possibility.

Sue Mackie closed the meeting and thanked all for attending.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Tuesday 13th May 2014 at 6pm.