

Parent Council Meeting Minute

Tuesday 27 October 2015

Present: Jacqui Baird (JB), Mark Cockburn (MC), Linda Irvine (LI), Pauline Allison Headteacher (HT)

Apologies: Angela Ritchie

Previous Meeting Minutes: Not yet received from Sue Mackie due to technology difficulties – to be chased by MC.

Issues raised from previous meeting / outstanding issues:

School Bus: Still an ongoing issue being discussed. As yet no response from Elaine Cook. MC to contact Sue Mackie to see if any response from Elaine Cook has been received by her. WLC may need to be chased up on this issue.
Cards now shown on bus more often.
A brief summary of the bus issues raised was given; i.e safety, seatbelts, behaviour, escorts and the accident of 19/1. All issues have been raised previously at the parent council meetings and also at the parents' forum on 11/03/15.

Jim Cameron is now Head of Service for Secondary Schools at WLC

Lunch Cards: HT confirmed electronic card system going ahead and looks to be in place in the New Year.

- Available online to parents
- Can update payment
- View purchases

DHT Appointment: West Lothian model Secondary Schools is HT and 2 DHT. Stephen Wright, PTC Science, temporarily appointed to Head of S3/4, working as part of the Senior Management Team and his responsibilities include raising attainment and achievement.

PTC Science: Teachers interested in the post will be interviewed in the coming weeks.

Attendance Letters: It was confirmed by HT that this is a WLC policy.
HT will raise at next HT meeting.
MC going to bring up at parent forum.

Other issues raised at meeting 27 October 2015

English Dept: Gemma Munro started maternity leave. No supply or replacement as yet. WLC approved appointment of replacement.
Advert to be placed in My Job Scotland in November.
G Anderson and English Dept. doing all they can and extra.
All exam classes are being covered by English Department.

Map of school/depts: MC asked if for next parents evening a map could be put online to make it easier for parents to find their way around. HT arranging.

- Stairs:** LI asked for clarification on different years using different stairways as feels confusion between pupils. HT will have this clarified at forthcoming assemblies.
- Funds:** Parent Council fund currently £145.00.
- Band Camp:** LI Congratulations to the school on their recent band camp success. It was the best and most enjoyed for last few years by her children.
S Duncan was very firm and spelled out to senior pupils what was expected of them beforehand and the response was good. HT to pass on to S Duncan the positive comments.
- Other outings:** Successful trips also enjoyed to the Theatre and Surgeon's Hall.
- Group Call:** LI raised the issue of pupils signing in at reception in the morning – is someone responsible for updating the register from the office. HT will look into.
- Pitch:** HT confirmed extra drainage recently put into larger pitch.
Referee out today 27/10 for inspection – not suitable for playing on at present.
PE Dept. informed but due to time of year this won't affect PE activities planned.
- Curriculum:** Planning of the S1-3 and S4-6 implementation still ongoing.
DCHS will introduce the change for the 2016/17. More information to follow.
- Sports:** DCHS to continue to excel again in sports and the handball teams are through to the final.
- Future Events:** Parents Night
Employability event – HT to confirm if senior pupils only.
Careers evening
Practice exams (formerly prelims) start at the end of November for S4.
- Parental Involvement:** HT advised recent Education Publication of HGIOS.
4th edition completed suggests schools self-evaluate and highlights the need for parental involvement.
MC asked if there is the possibility of an evaluation link on the website.

HT & JB asked if parents are reluctant to become involved.

MC suggested online FAQ with answers. HT is keen on idea and will consult with staff to gain feedback and bring discussion to next meeting.

Not all parents will complete a scoring '1-5' example questionnaire and possibly comment only – to be considered.

Suggested that some parents don't get in touch because they are happy with how things are going and feel no contact is required.

Transition P7-S1: Parent Council not required to do teas/coffees etc. Responsibility to be given to senior pupils. S6 to help.

Christmas Fair: No Christmas Fair planned for 2015. Further discussion of every second year or a summer fair but nothing planned so far.

Stellar Awards: Craig McLean of DCHS nominated and through to finals.

Date and time next meeting: Tuesday 24 November at 6pm