

# Dunblane High School Parent Council



## Minutes for Meeting of the Parent Council

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015

Venue – McCarron Room

7.15 – 9pm

Attendees: Linsay Goodfellow (Chair), Heather Dougan (Secretary), Kathy McEwan (Treasurer), Chinny Iroegbu, Lynne Ross (Vice Chair), Sandy Fleming (Community Representative), Louise Scott, Lorraine Thomson, Margo Wilkinson (Depute Head), Frank Lennon (Head Teacher), Mark Spencer Bowles

Apologies: Liz Fraser

### 1. **Chair's Report**

Linsay welcomed everyone along to the meeting. The Minutes from the meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> October were agreed unanimously as a fair representation of the previous meeting. Sandy Fleming put proposed a vote of confidence in the Chair Linsay and the Parent Council for their openness. This was agreed unanimously.

One of the discussions from the previous meeting was Homework and there are now Course Plans on the school website. The Principal Teachers are at present conducting a review and any modification will come after the first week in December. Lorraine mentioned the jump from S3 - S4 being quite large, however Mr Lennon spoke about the advantage we have in that from S1-S3 pupils are all studying the broad general education, and although it does become a bit more intense towards the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> year, the Study Planner is a good practical guide to studying. The previous 5<sup>th</sup> years have come back and given the 4<sup>th</sup> years a talk on what to expect. Mrs Wilkinson also spoke about the pupils being encouraged to take personal responsibility for managing their time now that they are at National 5 level - to ask questions, and if there is anything of concern, that they raise it and that they learn to be a bit more proactive.

A new email for the Parent Council is being set up but is not live at the moment and Linsay asked that all Parent Council correspondence and communication be directed to the PC Secretary (Heather Dougan) or via the school office.

Linsay received an email communication on 16<sup>th</sup> October from the SPTC re proposed Media Seminars. Stirling Council are holding their own information event on this subject on 30<sup>th</sup> November.

Rhona Robotham, Acting Quality Improvement Officer, has invited Chairs of Parent Councils to a training session regarding appointments of Depute and Head Teachers on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November.

Stirling Council Link Officer, Mrs Johnston, has been in touch regarding the early stages of recruiting a new Head Teacher. The Council is hoping to have an advert out prior to Christmas

with a possible appointment in late January. The Parent Council will be involved in this process and Sandy Fleming suggested that the PC see the advert prior to it going out.

Lindsay mentioned that all Parent Council meetings are in the school calendar but now that we are getting into the winter nights if there are any problems re weather and meetings have to be cancelled or postponed then we will do our very best to get in touch with everyone but parents should check the website.

Lindsay has sent a card as correspondence to the Parent Council of Cults Academy in light of the tragic events at their school last week.

## **2. Treasurer's Report**

Kathy is still waiting for the paperwork to come back from the bank re transfer of signatories but the balance at present stands at £424.71. We do have an up to date SPTC membership, paid for by Stirling Council.

## **3. Head's Report**

The Council Budget was published today and the implications for Secondary School are that each school will be given targets for the costs of all management posts (HT, DHT & PTs) which are to be implemented by August 2019. Head Teachers have been asked to look at various options – but this will depend on individual schools. The total we are going to have to reduce is not as daunting as first thought. However because all the savings cannot be made by cutting teacher numbers (the Government will not allow teacher numbers to drop), the savings have to come from Support Staff. The school intends to prioritise the support for pupils ie SLAs so cuts will have to be made to admin support staff posts. As admin support staff vacancies arise they will not be replaced and thus there could be an impact on eg school office hours of opening. There will be no more permanent SLA appointments. There is nothing immediate but those leaving will not be replaced.

Mrs Hansom has retired but has agreed to come back on a Wednesday to take her Advanced Higher Class and Mrs Scott has taken over from Mrs Hansom as Principal Teacher of Pupil Support. Mrs Henderson (Modern Languages) has been appointed Principal Teacher Pupil Support for S1 and has taken over from Mr McMaster. We are now one above complement in Maths, which allows for more flexibility.

The School show has been decided for next June – The Wizard of Oz.

Stirling Council is aware of the upcoming anniversary of the Dunblane Tragedy 20 years ago and will take every care to handle it sensitively.

## **5. Any Other Business**

Fundraising, Lorraine asked if there could be a note put out in the newsletter welcoming suggestions for fundraising or any donations. There will be an element of fundraising at the Christmas concert, but details still to be confirmed.

## **6. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> February at 7.15.