

# Dunblane High School Parent Council



## Minutes for Meeting of the Parent Council

8<sup>th</sup> December 2014

Venue – Dunblane Room

7.15 – 9pm

### **ATTENDEES**

Frank Lennon (Head Teacher), Margo Wilkinson (Depute Head), Linsay Goodfellow (Chair), Heather Dougan (Secretary), Anne Kelly (Treasurer), Kathy McEwan, Lynne Ross, Louise Scott (Teacher Representative), Christine Cameron (Vice Chair), Julie Forrest, Liz Fraser, Kenny Forsyth

**Apologies** Chiny Iroegbu

### **1. Approval of Previous Minutes**

Minutes were approved by Christine Cameron and seconded by Julie Forrest .

### **2. Chair Report**

Linsay spoke of meetings the SPTC are providing in the near future, looking at Education Scotland sometime in February and how to fundraise on 21st April. There will also be training sessions for chair, vice chairs and post holders, dates not confirmed as yet.

Stirling Council have set up a small working group to discuss road safety with young people in schools throughout the area.

### **Home Economics**

Liz Fraser raised a concern that there is a lot less Home Economics being taught in the school. Teaching time for S1-3 has gone down dramatically. The reason for this is that there are 2 FTE one of whom is the head of the biggest faculty in the school and 50 per cent of her time is taken up with this work, the other teacher has taken retirement. Mr Lennon spoke of how Dunblane High has made HE compulsory for 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> years but there has been an issue regarding the supply of HE teachers for a number of years and above 3<sup>rd</sup> year there is no demand for it, pupils favouring academic subjects. A probationer has been requested and will be requested again. There will however be an extra 3 periods in the upper school one will be core PE, one HE and PSE.

Lynne Ross mentioned that there may be scope for parent led initiatives to run courses out of school time, however there would be a number of difficulties facing this approach.

### **School Trips**

At a previous sub committee meeting re excursions the points raised have now been incorporated into the school's Excursions Policy. It will be made clear from the beginning that when a pupil makes a financial commitment to a trip and then withdraws it could affect the viability and the cost of that trip for other pupils and that children from that family in the future may not be considered suitable for trips.

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

The current balance stands at £431.66. £900 has been donated to the school for Christmas lights. Mrs Wilkinson thanked the Parent Council for the donation. Linsay mentioned that Lorraine Thomson is keen to start a fundraising group in the new year.

### **4. Head Teacher's Report**

The new 33 period week will go ahead from 5 May next year. From the start of the new financial year it means that the school will make 1.4 FTE of a saving solely with the efficiency of moving to the new system.

Pupils will have a slightly longer morning break to allow snacks to be purchased and consumed and 1<sup>st</sup> year pupils may be taking lunch slightly earlier. This led to a discussion on a problem in the dinner hall with pupils not lifting their litter. Pupils are not responding to requests to lift litter and often reply with 'it's not mine'. The solution would be to employ a cleaner after lunch. This will be brought up as an Agenda point for the next meeting.

Mr Lennon commented on the two MAD groups within the school which have been outstanding and well organised.

The Standards and Quality Report will be issued to every family tomorrow (9<sup>th</sup> December).

The upcoming Christmas Concert has 130 pupils involved. The maximum seating within the Atrium is 240 which means there will be limited number of seats available.

### **5. Any Other Business**

Mrs Wilkinson spoke of DHPC Minutes and Agenda archive on the school website having been lost due to the site being hacked. A new website is now up and running.

There is going to be a registered school tartan. There will be 3 designs coming through before a final decision is made.

Mr Forsyth mentioned Robert Peston who set up a charity with the specific aim of providing inspirational speakers. The school is aware of these speakers who can provide powerful experiences for the pupil, however the school needs speakers who will speak to a brief.

Lynne Ross mentioned the work of a group of S4 girls who do fundraising for Likhubula and would like to discuss more citizenship opportunities for the lower school at the next meeting.

### **6. Date of next meeting.**

The date of the next meeting was set for Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015. The meeting closed at 8.45pm.