

## Dunblane High School Parent Council



### Minutes for the Meeting of the Parent Council

24<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Venue – McCarron Room

7.00 – 8.45pm

#### **Attendees**

Sandy Fleming (Chair)  
Stuart MacKay (Head Teacher)  
Linsay Goodfellow (Vice-Chair)  
Lesley Imrie (Depute Head)  
Lynne Ross (Treasurer)  
Louise Scott (CLPL)  
Vicki Sheridan (Secretary)  
Mark Spencer-Bowles  
Rhoda MacRae  
Louise Hynd (Pupils MAD rep)  
Rebecca Smith (Pupil MAD rep)  
Steph Snedden (Head Girl)  
Alex McDermid (Depute Head Girl)

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies received from Lorraine Thomson, Chinny Iroegbu, Liz Fraser and Heather Dougan. Heather would like to continue as an attendee of Parent Council.

#### **2. Approval of Previous Minutes dated 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

Linsay approved minutes and was seconded by Lynne.

#### **3. Chair's Report**

Sandy introduced himself as the new Chair and suggested other attendees provide introductions. Representatives of the Pupil Council were invited to provide an overview of their fundraising ideas and to see how/if the Parent Council could assist.

#### **4. Fundraising**

Sandy noted that the proposed Halloween disco for S1 & S2 will not go ahead due to lack of interest. He confirmed that various attempts had been made by staff and pupil reps to encourage attendance but perhaps the pupils felt a 'disco' was not an event they would enjoy.

It was agreed that a Burns themed ceilidh evening in January for S5&6 was a good idea. Event to be further discussed at separate meeting.

Lynne suggested that the Parent Council in collaboration with the Pupil Council could undertake a survey of all year groups to determine what type of events would be of interest to them going forward. A separate meeting will be arranged with the Parent Council fundraising committee, the Pupil Council Reps and the MAD reps to take this forward. They will also discuss any areas where the Parent Council could assist the pupils with fundraising events.

Alex mentioned that it would be helpful to the pupils if they knew how monies raised at Parent Council led events were spent. There is perhaps a perception that fundraising for the school is not a worthy cause, however if pupils could see how they were benefitting they would be more likely to support the events.

Louise and Rebecca then explained some of their proposed MAD fundraising ideas:

1. Stand up to Cancer day (Charity event) – 31<sup>st</sup> October. A treasure hunt was suggested but the logistics of how it will be presented to the pupils is to be established to ensure no disruption to the school working day.
2. Non-uniform day (school fundraising)
3. A sporting event (school fundraising) – Blind football was suggested.
4. A talent show (school fundraising)
5. In December – Christmas gifts for the Community (charity event). Gifts would be brought in by pupils and distributed to worthwhile charities. Make-a-wish (charity event) pupils would buy a bobble for the school tree. Christmas jumper day (charity event) pupils would pay to wear Christmas jumper with prizes available for best dressed etc.
6. In February – Charity event in aid of Diabetes
7. In March – Charity event in aid of British Heart Foundation – perhaps a Fashion Show

Lynne explained the proposed Parent Council fundraising events which have agreed so far:

1. Photography competition – Pupils to supply their favourite photographs and best 12 will be chosen for inclusion in a calendar sponsored by local businesses. Entries will be required by 31<sup>st</sup> October to allow calendar to be compiled and printed for sale at the Dunblane Extravaganza on 24<sup>th</sup> November. A pupil manned stall on the high street would be ideal, perhaps with school choir involvement. Lynne to look into this.

2. Christmas Raffle – prizes to be provided by local businesses. Since Parent Council no longer have gaming licence, tickets would be sold at Christmas concert 15<sup>th</sup> December and matinee performance 16<sup>th</sup> December.
3. Bag to school event was also suggested.

Sandy invited representatives from the pupil council to attend Parent Council meeting in the future. Pupil representatives in attendance then left the meeting.

## **5. Head Teachers Report**

Mr MacKay confirmed that Dr Irvine had now left the school.

A new appointment has been made in Geography and Mr James Denny has already attended the school and been involved with both teaching and a school trip.

Since Mr Pickavance remains absent and Mrs Black has now gone on maternity leave, staffing the English department has been difficult. Originally temporary cover was envisaged but this has not been possible due to lack of suitable candidates so permanent posts have now been advertised (closing date for applications 25<sup>th</sup> October). It is hoped that 2 new teachers will be appointed by start of December. In the meantime, provisions are in place to ensure that all year groups are covered by qualified English teachers.

Those S1 pupils without an English teacher for parents' night have been informed by letter and will be invited to come in February to meet the new teachers. If parents have concerns about the situation in the meantime they should raise it with their child's pupil support teacher, however to date Mr MacKay is only aware of one written complaint.

Linsay noted that the existing English teachers and SFL team are working extremely hard to cover the absences in their department and their dedication should be acknowledged. Lack of English teachers is currently a national problem.

S4-S6 have had their effort based school reports issued. A high number of praise cards have been issued.

Newsletter has been updated and is on the website. Lynne praised new format. School brochure to be printed by January to be issued to new S1 pupils.

Work Experience week is scheduled for w/c 21<sup>st</sup> November. Mr Noakes and team have been working hard to ensure all pupils involved have a suitable position.

Dates for Christmas Dances are agreed and on school calendar.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

Lynne confirmed that the Parent Council Account balance remains the same £424.71. Kathy has reviewed accounts. A cheque book is yet to be issued by the bank.

Rhonda reiterated that there is still a perceived lack of understanding of what the Parent Council does. It has been agreed that a stand is to be provided at each of the parents' nights to promote the PC and Sandy has organised for leaflets from the SPTC to be available (along with free pens!) which outlines our role. It was agreed that c£80 should be spent on a Parent Council display banner to compliment the school ones which could then be used to assist with this promotion on various occasions throughout the year.

## **7. Any Other Business**

The SPTC will deliver a Communication Evening on 7<sup>th</sup> November. This is open to Dunblane Parent Council Members and representatives from Bannockburn High and Wallace High and will discuss improved communication provisions between PC's, their schools and the parent forums. Existing provisions will be reviewed to see how/whether they could help in this regard. Any interested party should contact Linsay as soon as possible.

Date of next Parent Council Meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> January 7pm