

DALBEATTIE HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

MEETING OF 17TH MARCH 2009

Present: - Lyn Burgess (Chairperson), Susan McLellan (Vice Chair), Donald Wallace (Headteacher), A Little (Clerk), Anne McMillan, Andrea Irving, Marie Roberts, Alistair Bremner, Marion Gourley, Carolyn Kennedy, and Counsellors David Stitt and Ian Blake.

1. **Welcome** - The meeting starting with Lyn welcoming everyone who attended.
2. **Apologies** – Apologies were received from Ian Clark, Elaine Ross, Jill McDonald and Counsellor Rob Davidson.

3. **Matters Arising** – **Minutes of last meeting** –

Minutes were sent out to the Parent Council members electronically this time but unfortunately some members did not receive them. Clerk apologised for this.

Previous minutes were recorded wrong. The amendments are:

17th September – Approved by Marie Roberts, Seconded by Marion Gourley.

4th November – Approved by Marion Gourley, Seconded by Carolyn Kennedy.

Minutes of 13th January –

Approved – Carolyn Kennedy

Seconded – Marion Gourley

In the last meeting it was asked if anyone wanted to join any of the other sub groups. It was noted in the minutes that there were willing volunteers. These are: Carolyn Kennedy is able to join the Curriculum for excellence sub group, Marion Gourley is able to join the Mobile Phone sub group. Marie Roberts and Susan McLellan are to join the sub group to help with the planning of the German student exchange.

The questionnaire that was sent by the government was completed by Lyn.

Susan Swanston is still to be contacted regarding joining the Parent Council.

4. **Curriculum for excellence** –

Lyn welcomed Mr Bremner who then introduced the DVD on the curriculum for excellence which we all watched. Mr Bremner then gave the group the opportunity to ask questions on the DVD. A lengthy discussion was then held on the matter.

Mr Bremner then thanked the group for their help with the Burns Supper.

5. **Correspondence** –

1. Received a receipt for £45 which was paid for membership to the Scottish Parent Councils Association.
2. Received a copy of backchat which was sent electronically.
3. Letter from D&G Council advising crediting Parent Council with additional £50.

6. **Treasurers Report** –

Apologies from Ian for not attending the meeting. He has been in touch with Jill McDonald regarding the signatories for the bank account. They are now awaiting forms from the bank.

7. **Sub Groups** –

International links –

Host families are still required for German Students in the exchange. Mrs Smith is now involved in this to try and bring some momentum.

Mobile phone and **Curriculum for excellence** –

Parents are about to become involved as already detailed.

Social and Fundraising –

The group helped at the Burns Supper which they said was a good night. They also had a super group of helpers from 5th and 6th year students.

The Quiz Night was a good evening but they didn't have a great turnout, thought this was maybe due to a bad choice of date as there was a lot of Burns themed nights on at the same time. The group still managed to bank £85 from monies raised from the Quiz night and from serving tea and coffee at the S1 consultation evening. In total they have roughly £700 in the bank. They had some suggestions on how to spend the money but then found out that funds were already in place for these. Lyn asked what else the money could be used for as the original purpose was to fund the cost of the flagpoles, but funds for this have now been secured elsewhere. Mr Wallace said that the money will come in useful in the future.

Marie suggested asking the pupil council if they could come up with some ideas on what to spend the money on.

Mr Wallace said that maybe something towards the cost of renovating the school toilets would be an idea.

8. **Headteachers Report** –

Flagpoles – Thanks to a generous contribution from Dalbeattie Lions Club, the flagpoles have now been purchased for the school. The School still need safety barriers to go round them.

Staffing Issues – Art and Design - Mr McCallie will be a probationer for a year and Mrs Henry will start in June. History – Mr Wright leaves in August. The post will be advertised this Friday (20th) for History/Modern Studies. Maths – the school is trying to recruit a probationer for this year. English – they hope to start the year with a probationer which will hopefully turn into a permanent position.

Financial Issues – as the school is approaching the end of the financial year, all is fine and hopefully the money is safe for next year.

School roll and curriculum issues – the school is roughly 20 pupils down this year with the S1 intake only being around 63 which is less than normal. If the School don't have enough pupils then staffing allocations have to be re-assessed and some subjects might lose staff.

Badminton – D&G Schools Championship on 24/01/09 was a great success.

Quiz Night – also a great success.

Curling – School Championships at Lockerbie, Dalbeattie students were 4th. Thanks to Mr Orr for all his help with this.

Burns Supper – the night was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended.

D&G College – open day on 11/02/09 was a success.

Dr Peter Hughes – Scottish Engineering, a workshop on 13/02/09. He was giving the kids £5 notes for every correct answer they gave.

Ski Excursion – thanks to all the staff who gave up their time to go with the kids. It was a great experience for all the students.

CPD Days – Mrs Smith has helped set it up. The 1st June has been sanctioned by the government as a closure day for pupils but staff will still be in school.

Hockey – Dr Turners tournaments for S3 on 24/02/09, team A beat team B. S1 & S2 took part on 09/03/04, team A won.

Cross Country – William Kilty from S2 won.

Football – Coca Cola 7's tournament on 27/02/09 was a great success.

Story Telling – S1 had a story telling day on 04/03/09, also a great success.

Mock Interviews – Dalbeattie Rotary Club had Mock Interviews for S4 on 11/03/09.

School Estate – Mr Brown didn't turn up, but the meeting has been rescheduled for Monday 23rd March. After the bad write up in the Galloway News, Schools would like to gather more information before involving the public.

T.A.G – Performance of Yellow Moon. This was a powerful performance which covered lots of issues like love, money, drugs etc. It lasted around 70 minutes.

Football tournament – the under 15's tournament will be held in Carlisle on 18/03/09.

Paris – Mr Brown and Mrs Irvine are taking 4 students from Intermediate/Higher French on an excursion to Paris on 22 & 23/03/09.

Duke of Edinburgh – Awards night.

Formula Schools – Mr Orr & the Motorsports group are going to Silverstone to race the schools petrol remote controlled car.

9. Pupils Council –

No members from the Pupil Council were present at tonight's meeting. Mr Wallace informed the group that at their last meeting they were having discussions on the new School Build, after all, their views will be important. They also held a discussion on the situation that has arisen with the schools canteen and what foods can or can not be taken out of the dining hall. Sometimes pupils can't get a seat so they have to take their lunch out, but having hot food out with the canteen is a potential hazard so they were having a look into this.

10. **Proposals for Dalbeattie High School** –

The Parent Council were invited to a meeting with people from Moffat as they have already been through this. Unfortunately the meeting didn't take place. It has been rescheduled for Monday 23rd March.

A lengthy discussion was held with regards to the article in the Galloway News on the new School Build.

Counsellors Ian Blake and David Stitt have had people already asking questions which are being answered as best they can.

It has been confirmed that the earliest date for the new School Build will be 2012.

11. **Liason with the Parent Forum** –

Leaflets were given out at the S1 consultation evening to try and recruit new members who have children in S1. Current Parent Council members were asked if they knew of any S1 parents/carers that they could ask to join the group.

12. **A.O.B** –

Parent Council Website. It was suggested that we could place the minutes of the meetings on the School website for everyone to read instead of posting it to all Parents/Carers. It was agreed that a new covering page would have to be added to make it more interesting to encourage viewers to read on.

The group also decided to place a paragraph in each of the Newsdesks to let all readers know what is happening within the Parent Council.

It was also decided that the Clerk would try again to send out the minutes electronically, hopefully to all members this time!

DATE OF NEXT MEETING –

Tuesday 12th May 2009.

Lyn thanked all who attended the meeting.