

DALBEATTIE HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

MEETING OF 19TH January 2010

Present: - Lyn Burgess (Chairperson), Susan McLellan (Vice Chair), Susan Bain (Headteacher), Marion Gourlay, Rebecca Kellett, Danielle Burgess (Student Council), Stuart McCulloch and Councillor Davie Stitt, Andrea Irving (Minutes)

Welcome: - Lyn opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and introduced the new Headteacher.

Apologies: - Councillor Ian Blake, Anne McMillan Ian Clark and Ashley Little.

Matters Arising: -

Craft Fayre - poor attendance also due to people ill with swine flu and a sing together event at Colvend. If a craft fayre is planned for later this year it might be wise to ensure it is not on the same night.

MV awards – Susan Bain will speak to Christine from Volunteer Action.

Approved – Marion Gourlay

Seconded – Susan McLellan

Correspondence: -

SPTC have confirmed insurance is up to date and sent policy details.

Updated info about Licensing Act – Parent Council members do not need to undergo training as was previously reported in Backchat.

SPTC Survey has been received about fundraising and has been passed to Social and Fundraising Committee.

Michael Russell, the new Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, has written to encourage Parent Councils to continue with their good work.

Backchat Jan 2010 issue available as paper copy and if it comes electronically it is to be linked to the school website.

Parent Council Newsletter from Scottish Government - Sharing Practice Event, 'Involving Parents in Children's Learning', is on Sat 20th of March in Edinburgh. Application to attend must be in by Feb 26th.

Parent Council Area Forum will be held on 4th Feb, 7-9pm in Castle Douglas High School. Application to attend must be in by 25th of Jan. Rebecca and Lyn attending.

Treasurers report:

Ian Clark was unable to attend the meeting. Last years allocation of money to our Parent Council was overpaid by £540.75. This has to be paid back and will be dealt with internally by the council.

Balance = £46.33

Update from Sub Groups:

International links:

Chinese visitors had an intense 2 day programme during their visit in December. It was suggested that we must bear in mind China's poor history of human rights while we are forging links with them.

Malawi link is ongoing.

New Jersey visit possibility – It was suggested that if this visit is going ahead that pupils must be encouraged to take part as only 1 pupil from DHS took part last time.

Social and Fundraising:

Nothing to report since last meeting but a request for a suitable date for a fundraiser between the February and Easter holidays was requested. Susan Bain will find out when would be best. The next meeting will be held on Wed, 27th of Jan at 7pm

Mobile phone policy

The draft has been updated by senior management and will be returned to Parent and Pupil Councils to read. The policy will be implemented once it has been agreed by them. The deadline for agreement is one week.

Headteachers Report:

Susan Bain stated she was pleased and proud to be the new headteacher at Dalbeattie High School and that she has been given great support from Jenny Smith, Alastair Bremner and all the staff.

Letters from school will eventually be sent home electronically but meanwhile the majority will come home via pupil post; this will save money and admin staff time.

School charities – Malawi Link School and Support Our Heroes.

Fundraising Event – S5 & S6 re planning a Sponsored walk around Dalbeattie using the crutches that were used in the production of Animal Farm.

French trip – proposed in September.

Parents are driving onto school grounds to collect pupils at home time which is not allowed as it is a health and safety issue. It was suggested that the community police officer could be invited to be present at home time to deter this.

Glow, the Scottish Schools Intranet is now up and running in school – early days yet.

Video conferencing facilities have arrived in school at a cost of £3000. This will be of great benefit and can be used in many ways. It will be installed in room 7 and teachers will have to book to use.

Questionnaire to go to parents asking if they want any extra info or support from school

Staffing – Home.Economics teacher on maternity leave from May, two staff members retiring in June and there is no remaining funding for teaching Mandarin.

Publicity for school is to be promoted. It is hoped that the Galloway News will be able to print a half page with news and photos from Dalbeattie High School at least every fortnight to raise the profile of the school, Mr Orr and Mr Williamson have volunteered to assist with this.

Pupil Council Report:

Members of the Pupil council attended the D&G pupil council forum and the main focus of the day was to get pupils involved in a Canteen Challenge to promote greater use of their school canteens.

School Estate:

There have been no further developments regarding School Estate since the last meeting.

Proposed budget cuts/councils budget consultation

Budget setting day within D & G Council is 11th of Feb.

Liaison with Parent Forum:

This is still ongoing at for example, P7 and Consultation Evenings. Forthcoming dates are to be confirmed. All minutes can be accessed on the Schools Website. There are still opportunities for other parents/carers to be involved. It was suggested information boards could be purchased and used during parent nights etc. to promote the Parent Council. Also invitations could be issued to parents to come along to meetings to see what happens.

A.O.B:

Susan McLellan is currently project assistant at Dalbeattie Initiative and they would welcome any staff from Dalbeattie High School as members of the Community Initiative. The Initiative would also like to invite pupils/staff to volunteer to help with environment projects for the community. Susan Bain will attend a future initiative meeting and report back to staff, pupils, parents and carers.

Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 16th March @ 7.00pm