

# DALBEATTIE HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

## MEETING OF 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010

**Present:** Lyn Burgess (Chairperson), Susan McLellan (Vice chair), Ian Clark (Treasurer), Ashley Little (Clerk), Susan Bain (Headteacher), Jill McDonald, Marion Gourley, Andrea Irving, Carolyn Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Ella McLellan, Stephen Howie, Alasdair Gaston, Rebecca Kellett, Stuart McCulloch, Maureen McCulloch and Councillor Davie Stitt.

### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Lyn opened the meeting and welcomed all. Everyone was asked to introduce themselves to the group.

**Apologies:** Councillors Ian Blake and Rob Davidson.

**Matters Arising:** Previous meeting 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

### **Treasurers Report** –

“Missing Money.” The money was not missing, it had been allocated to the wrong account.

### **International Links** –

Social and Charities Group raised money for Malawi, they have yet to decide what to do with it.

International Links Group are looking for a new parent member to take over as Lyn Burgess has resigned this year.

S3 Geography Class designed a poster for a competition and they won 1<sup>st</sup> prize. The prize includes next years link fee of £500 being paid for them.

### **Headteachers Report** –

It was noted that the Physics Classes have “Virtual Learning Techniques” these are actually ‘On-Line Learning.’

### **House Representatives** –

It was omitted in the previous minutes that there was a lengthy discussion on the fairness of the representation for the position of Head Boy/Girl. There were 8 students to be interviewed for the posts which ended up being 6 Girls and only 2 Boys.

It was reported in the Galloway news that the new ‘House Representatives’ were both Girls. A discussion was held on this matter and members of the Parent Council were concerned that boys in a house that is only represented by girls may not have their views expressed. Mrs Bain explained that the whole process for nominations, interviews and the interview panel was not taken lightly and was done as fair as possible. It was the Student body that nominated the potential candidates and it was after all interviews that it was decided that the two chosen girls were the best candidates for the positions thus being the reason why the titles have been changed from Head Boy/Girl to House Representatives.

Although there were no negatives from the Students regarding the outcome, the Parent Council feels that Boys may not even bother next year as they haven’t been acknowledged this year.

Furthermore it was decided that this issue needs to be put on the agenda for further discussion for next year.

## **Correspondence:**

Paperwork from SPTC – Membership and insurance details, this has been passed to Ian Clark (Treasurer).

Backchat – sent electronically. Has been put on Schools Website.

SPTC – information on a fundraising lottery and questionnaires. These have been passed to Social and Fundraising Group.

Scottish Government – Curriculum for Excellence factfile, the secondary experience. It seems relevant so it's to be put on the next agenda for further discussion.

D&G Council, Janie Riddit – Information on new points of contact. There are now various different people who can be contacted for information from the Council. The letter also highlights the role of the Parent Council.

## **Treasurers Report:**

The account currently has £687.53 in it. There is still expenditure to be deducted. The Group were unsure on what to spend the remaining money on for the School. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that the Parent Council would carry the money over for the following year.

## **Update from Sub Groups:**

**International Links** – The Committee are applying to the British Council for the £2000 needed for an Exchange Student.

The sports equipment has now been delivered to Malawi, along with \$50 for the Headteacher to spend as he sees fit, and materials received in return as part of a joint project on climate change.

The School are holding Assemblies every morning for all year groups to keep every Student up to date with what's going on with International Links.

## **Social and Fundraising:**

The Group were provisionally looking at holding a Fundraiser on 12<sup>th</sup> November '10. It has now come to light that Colvend School are holding an event that night so the Group are looking for another date and also ideas for an event.

Mrs Bain explained that the 6<sup>th</sup> year Students are also looking for fundraising ideas as they have decided to put on a School Prom near the end of the School Year but they need funding for the decoration of the hall and other items. They are running a Halloween party for P6&7 and S1 Students to try and raise funds. Other suggestions they had were, art Exhibition, Band Night and a Fashion Show.

It was discussed that the Social and Fundraising Group could get together with S6 Students to organise a fundraiser.

## **Headteachers Report:**

This was discussed in the AGM.

## **Dress Code:**

The Galloway News recently had a photograph with High School Students in it. This has caused quite a stir due to the inappropriate 'Uniforms' that Students were wearing.

The Students have been spoken to and a decision has been made that Students who don't take notice of the Dress Code should not be allowed in School photographs.

Students are very aware what the Schools Dress Code is, yet some Students don't adhere to the policy.

Students that do make full use of the dress code are awarded merits which in turn lead to house points throughout the year.

Teachers are to send any Student that is not dressed appropriately to Student Support where a member of staff will discuss with them why their attire is not suitable for School, if this is not satisfactory then the Student is requested to see a member of the management team to discuss it further.

There have been situations where the parents/carers have been notified if their child is not appropriately dressed but sometimes this ends in negative feedback from Parents/Carers.

### **Health and Safety:**

Helicopter - A problem is on going at present over the safety of the Students when a neighbouring Helicopter takes off and lands during School Hours.

This issue was also raised at last years AGM when the School was assured that the Helicopter would NOT take off or land when pupils were in School Grounds or in the Classrooms. Unfortunately, this has not been the case.

Mrs Bain has been in touch with Health and Safety and the Education Board to discuss this matter. The contact is still ongoing.

Lyn Burgess will write letters of complaint regarding the Helicopter to Health and Safety, the Education Board and the C.A.A.

Councillor Davie Stitt is to raise the matter with D&G Council.

Abattoir - It has been suggested that the High School have stated they are against the plans. This actually hasn't been discussed yet. This topic is to be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Fire in School - Electrical fault in Music Hut - fire engines were called - the correct action was taken. Minor smoke damage due to prompt action of Staff.

### **School Estate:**

A Project Board has been established to aide the progress of the New School. They have had 2 meetings so far. The next meeting is on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

It was noted that the Parent Council would like to be kept up to date with the progress. Mrs Bain will let the Project board know that the Parent Council need to be involved.

### **A.O.B:**

D&G Council held an Education meeting last week.

Community Initiative Office - Young people have been invited to an event from 4.30-6.30pm on Thursday. It will be outside work at the moment. The meeting point is at the entrance to the Rounal wood. This will earn the Students extra merits towards their Duke of Edinburgh awards and it all counts on Students C.V's for College applications. All details will be placed on the Schools Bulletin Board.

### **Dates of Next Meetings:**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2010 at 7pm.

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at 7pm.

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at 7pm.

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at 7pm.

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at 7pm.

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at 7pm.