

DALBEATTIE HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

MEETING OF 18th MAY 2010

Present: - Lyn Burgess (Chairperson), Ashley Little (Clerk), Susan Bain (Headteacher), Jenny Smith (Depute Headteacher), Alistair Bremner (Depute Headteacher), Carolyn Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Marion Gourley, Stuart McCulloch, Maureen McCulloch, Rebecca Kellett, Stephen Howie and Councillor Davie Stitt.

Welcome: - Lyn opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Apologies: - Susan McLellan (Vice Chair), Ian Clark (Treasurer), Andrea Irving, Pupil Council and Councillor Ian Blake.

Matters Arising: - No matters arising from previous minutes of 16th March 2010.

Approved – Stuart McCulloch

Seconded – Carolyn Kennedy

Treasurers Report: -

Currently have £687.53 in bank account.

It was also noted money has soon to be deducted for our 2010/11 SPTC membership. Still have to discuss details of the donation to Dalbeattie High School now that the overpayment has been repaid.

Update from Sub Groups: -

International Links:

The sub group hasn't met recently. The Schools are continuing to exchange letters. The School will place a bid of £2000 with the Council in September to try and get an exchange in the Spring next year. The group are hoping for a donation of Sports Equipment to be taken to Malawi.

Stuart McCulloch advised that Rev Norman Hutchinson has visited Malawi. The Sub Group could maybe arrange to meet him to gather some more information from him.

Social and Fundraising:

Easter weekend saw a successful event held by the Social and Fundraising Sub Group. They had a Charity Shop which raised £320.

P7 evening will be on 15th June. Parent Council were asked if any volunteers would help at the event to sell sweatshirts.

Correspondence: -

SPTC sent a letter to remind the Parent Council that the membership for this year will soon be due. Backchat – sent electronically.

Headteachers Report: -

Staffing – new posts in Biology and the return of Ms Farquhar; Drama 1fte; English 0.7 temporary & probationer of English 0.7/1 fte; PT CfE (acting) 1 fte; Support for Learning still to be confirmed. School roll for 2010/2011 estimated at 403 at present.

SQA Examinations update: -

Happy with the progress so far, things are going well. So far the School have had 3 no shows for exams. Mr Bremner explained how this results badly for the School as no shows results in fails for the students and has an effect on the overall outcome of the School. Were also advised that the School gets billed for each exam even if the Student doesn't turn up. The Students have adhered to the rules and guidelines of the SQA; this is a big plus for the School. Other Students in the School have been great and very respectful of the Exam process, they have been following the red cards and there have been no major disruptions whilst the Exams have been on. There is an increased number of Students with Special Needs, this puts extra pressure on the School as extra rooms and staffs are needed to house these Students in Exams.

Community Involvement – Allotments 500sq m for School/NHS use: -

Long term aim is to get a Polly tunnel & or a Portacabin on the site for the School and the Community to use.

Session 2010/11: -

Management Structure
S6 Head Students/Prefects/House Teams
Uniform – S6 and whole School – Academy uniforms samples
Raising Attainment (see below)

Whole School Improvement Agenda for 2010/11: -

S1-S3 Curriculum Review (Learning Experiences & Outcomes/Assessment and Reporting)
Self Evaluation/Quality Assurance (Individual subjects/depts/faculties/whole School including analysis of results/strategies for improvement in these)
CfE – National Assessment for Senior School; Literacy/Numeracy/Health and well being – Cluster working; S4 1 year course.
Raising Attainment (Tracking and Monitoring/Promoting positive behaviour including merits/demerits/referrals)
Policies & Procedures (Management Responsibility/S6 roles, responsibilities/House system)

Other Business: -

School meals-change to policy due to lack of pupil uptake-support from canteen requested.
Dates for whole School calendar, e.g.: Christmas Craft Fayre.
New Timetable- Monday 31st May
Events May/June – P7 Induction days; S5/6 Induction; Sports Day; S6 Leavers' Dinner; Awards Ceremony.

Pupil council Report: -

Nothing to report at present due to Exams.

School Uniforms: -

School Headteacher and Staff members want to smarten up the School Uniform. Mrs Bain had some designs for the Parent Council to view. There was an assortment of sweatshirts, zippers, P.E t-shirts, v-neck jumpers and blazers. It was suggested that the 6th year Students should wear shirt and tie all the time with the possibility of blazers. The other year groups will be expected to stick to the School dress code at all times.

The School may put on a fashion show with the 6th year Students modelling the different uniforms to show the rest of the Students and Parents/Carers.

Prefects and House Captains: -

The School are looking at having 2 Senior Students (6th Year) who will be interviewed by staff for appointment of Head Students – these Students will be speaking at awards ceremonies and lots more School Events/Conferences etc. They would also be responsible for steering the House Groups. The 4 House Groups will be run by House Captains. Students would have to apply for the positions and be interviewed by Staff Members.

The 4 House Groups would also have Sports Captains. Students would be nominated by other Students in their House Groups. Nominated Students would then be interviewed by Staff for the positions.

The 4 House Groups would also have a Head Coach/Mentor. Again, Students would be nominated by other Students and Staff would interview to fill the position.

These nominations would be done on induction days and interviews would be held in June.

These are only suggestions at the moment.

Liaison with Parent Forum: -

This is still ongoing. All details and information can be accessed on the School Website.

Ideas from Mrs Bain on how to get more Parents/Carers involved:

Lockerbie School had 3 meetings who invited 20 Parents/Carers from 2 year groups on separate occasions to ask them how they felt about the School and other topics they wished to discuss. It means that 3 teachers would each hold a meeting for 2 of the year groups. The teachers would then gather together all information and make better the details.

Lyn Burgess suggested that it would give the parents/carers more involvement this way. We would still need a Parent Council steering Group, but it's a good way of gathering Parents/Carers thoughts and views.

The School would be happy to do it in Dalbeattie, but it means 3 members of staff would have to put in another 3 nights work.

School Estate: -

There has been no new developments since Dalbeattie got the go ahead that we were 2/3 funded. It was decided that the Parent Council should write a letter to Colin Grant to ask what is now happening with the School Estate.

A.O.B: -

Nothing at present.

Date of Next Meeting: -

Tuesday 15th June 2010 @ 7pm.