

# Meeting: Parent Council Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Present: S Dougan, J Cochrane, L Chuchla, L Henderson, R Provan, J McIntyre, A Finlay, C Dingwall, M Blaney, G McNally, L Shanks, L Noble, L Barkhouse, K Murray

Apologies: M Weir, L McGillivray, A Cross, T Smith, D Killin, J MacWhirter, R Moban, J Dempsey, J Hyslop, S Smith

Item	Information / Decision	Action
Treasurer's Report	<p>Latest 28 October statement shows one cheque out for clerk fee £40 Balance is now £43.</p> <p>The admin payment should be in, a few schools in the authority are still waiting due to an I.T. issue. Hopefully by the next meeting we should have this payment.</p>	
Chairpersons Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• G McNally &amp; C Dingwall proposed and seconded minutes of last meeting be adopted.</li> <li>• G McNally has volunteered to be our fundraising officer. J Cochrane went through funding options that we can tap into.</li> </ul>	
Headteacher's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apologies for Mr Killin as he was due to attend the meeting, unfortunately he had taken unwell so will need to reschedule.</li> <li>• Update on inspection due w/b 5<sup>th</sup> December. Already been improvements to Curriculum, Self Evaluation and Attainment. Lots of work going on at the moment. Mr Dougan then gave a rundown of how the inspection will be carried out and what will happen after the inspection. Parent Council will be asked to have a conversation with the inspectors.</li> <li>• 3 weeks ago Childrens' Services were in to look at the School Improvement. 2.5 hr. meeting with head of service, QIO and Curriculum support. They were very satisfied.</li> <li>• Really pleased that the school has been entered into a few awards. We have won an award at the Diana Awards for our ambassadors working very closely with the local community and with our primary schools which is incredible. Such a big honour. Yesterday we attended Falkirk Council Celebrating Success Awards. Out of the top categories we had 3 of our projects shortlisted. Our ICT café was shortlisted, as was our School of Sport and Mr MacWhirter as Outstanding Achiever of the Year, this is across the council. On the website we shall also be announcing a national winner of an award, at the moment we are not allowed to announce it but keep your eyes peeled for that on the website shortly.</li> </ul>	

<p>Headteacher's Report continued</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The website is being worked on, Mr Dougan showed us key parts of the new website. It is still a work in progress but significantly better now. We had a presentation for parents and pupils for further higher education and the presentation is saved as a PDF on the website for anyone to view. Beginning to get our info on.</li> <li>• Vacancy for Maths – closing date tonight at midnight, we have had 2 people who have applied and both look good for the interview. Interim we have Mr Provan back to take Maths on Thurs/Fri and also have a supply teacher Mrs Gamble who has started this week, she will work Mon-Weds. We are hoping to have someone recruited before Christmas.</li> <li>• One thing asked for was important dates on the website which we have now added, you can click on the pdf and save it or print it off. If we have to close the school, for example for bad weather etc, you can find the information on the website.</li> <li>• Parent Council could add more things on the website, contact Mavis Paterson or Ruth Provan at the school.</li> <li>• Someone had also asked about the twitter feeds. These have now been added to the new website and Mr Dougan showed how to access them.</li> <li>• Parents Evening – since the last Parent Council meeting we have had 2 parents' evenings. We have been collecting feedback on how the event was for parents. Mr Dougan went through the results, all is very positive. Also asked the Parent Council what their view was about potentially doing an online booking system with a discussion around the pros and cons of this – a number of concerns were raised.</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Year Assembly – we held an assembly with the first years this morning regarding standard expectations and behaviour. Mr Dougan spent the rest of the day in and out of as many first year classes to make sure that the behaviour is as expected.</li> <li>• Donald Dewar Memorial Debating Competition – We are hosting all three rounds in the library. We have 2 teams and a reserve. If you are free tomorrow night please feel free to come along, it starts at 7pm. The motion is that we propose a ban on referendums.</li> <li>• Future Chef – we have 2 of our 2<sup>nd</sup> year pupils who are going to be representing the school at Future Chef, they will prepare 2 dishes, a starter main or dessert. We have 2 pupils who have made it to the final. We have managed to secure links with the Westwood Hotel for some pupils to go in and see how the hotel runs. 2 will go to the Gallery Restaurant in Stirling, this is the restaurant that trainee chefs use at the college.</li> <li>• Curriculum – One of the areas where the school needs help from parents for the inspection is Curriculum and the quality of the curriculum we give to our young people. Some sheets were passed around. School improvement groups for the School Improvement plan will be focused around curriculum. Is our curriculum fit for purpose? Does it meet the needs of our learners S1-S3? Are we managing to get it right for everyone? Speaking to pupils at the Pupil Council. They like having an option to pick for developing leadership opportunities. Particularly school of dance and school of football. Asked if they want any other groups such as School of Art etc. We've created information around this for the Parents' Information Evenings. School Improvement Group meetings to build a good strong vibrant curriculum.</li> </ul>	
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<p>Headteacher's Report continued</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Dougan explained around taking Languages as subjects and around broad general education.</li> <li>• Mr Dougan suggested putting option choices on the Agenda for next meeting to go more in depth.</li> <li>• Suggestion for an S1 &amp; S2 information evening around option choices. Mr Dougan explained that you get a booklet which details different subjects. Parents would like to understand more about the subjects. School would love to have an information evening for all years but its if we can get the numbers of parents to attend.</li> <li>• Mr Dougan explained that some people pick the subjects they want for a career path that they wish to follow but then change their mind, so this is why we have broad general education. If they specialise their subjects too quickly then they might change their mind and want to follow another path.</li> <li>• J Cochrane asked Mr Dougan if S3 pupils and parents were still to receive one-to-one meeting in line with S1 meetings around children's progress/ambitions – as discussed at September's meeting. This was confirmed and to be prior to S3 choosing subjects.</li> <li>• Mr Dougan explained about Prelims and study time. Prelims to continue though most sat in class; Maths and English to be held in main hall for experience. No study leave for Prelims as not considered effective use of pupils' learning time. Mrs McAuley will be coming along to one of the meetings to explain SQA.</li> <li>• There was a discussion around reward trips. Some people are getting option of getting out of school for leadership opportunities and some don't. Mr Dougan explained that the stats from questionnaires were that majority of the pupils did not want to do the reward trips. Cinema trip at Christmas may still go ahead. Mr Killin will be able to talk about Reward Trips when he does his talk at one of the next meetings. A number of parents stated that what some pupils are doing is fantastic but other pupils feel if they aren't involved in this success then they are feeling a bit left out. Mr Dougan said we will create opportunities for all of our young people. He said we may look at smaller reward trips. Parent commented that we need to give them something as a reward. There was a consensus among parents that the range of reward trips in the last few years was too wide/expensive. When the list was limited and Alton Towers the major reward this trip was more popular.</li> <li>• Discussion also around homework. Some give and some do not, there is not great consistency at the moment; in discussions on how to move forward. Information about homework is on the website at the moment.</li> </ul>	
<p>AOCB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs Provan spoke about the Christmas Fair, which is on 9<sup>th</sup> December. Looking for volunteers to help in both the afternoon and evening sessions or Parent Council holding a stall. Any donations for the Christmas Raffle or Fair would be great.</li> <li>• Recycling uniforms – looking at holding a stall at Parent's Night or having some place that parents can donate old uniforms and we could have a discreet area for parents to come and get a uniform for their child.</li> <li>• J Cochrane was asked if she could provide us dates of Parent Council meetings for the full year.</li> <li>• J McIntyre gave us information on the Red Book Awards.</li> <li>• R Provan gave information on the quiz night at Bo'ness Bowling club.</li> <li>• Information regarding being a member of the Parent Council issued, anyone who is not a member can still attend but will not have voting rights.</li> </ul>	

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 (change from original date)