

Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting  
held on the 26<sup>th</sup> August 2014 in the  
Principal's Office at 6.00pm

Present: Katrina Smith (Chair)  
Sheila Paton (Principal)  
Ken Campbell (Treasurer)  
Ollie Clegg (Deputy Chair)  
Amanda Campbell  
Bill Smith  
Jackie Smith  
Kristyna MacSween  
Stuart Sinclair  
Anne-Marie Mooney (Minutes)

1. **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minute of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014 was approved.

Katrina welcomed Jackie Smith as a new parent member and Kristyna MacSween Curriculum Leader of Health & Well Being Faculty who is joining the Council to represent staff and continue her involvement with the Responsible Retailing of Energy Drinks campaign.

**Matters Arising:**

Stuart reported on the Commonwealth Celebration event held last week in school with fantastic dancing from two students visiting us from Barkly West School, South Africa together with one of the teaching staff. The students who went to South Africa were also involved along with a Commonwealth games Judo gold medallist. Local primary schools attended and we had Fair Trade items for sale.

2. **Sainsbury's Listening Group**

Donna McLaren, Customer Services Manager from Sainsbury's in Longstone joined the meeting to ask for feedback on the store as it has now been open for one year. Agreed that customer service and parking was good but prices can be higher than other stores.

The Parent Council asked if Sainsbury's would consider supporting the school on a range of issues and activities – sign up to the Responsible Retailing of Energy Drinks (RRED), provide work placements for WHEC students, support WHEEA, support for the Breakfast Club. Donna advised that the store does support local charities and can donate hampers for raffle prizes if the school send them a written request. Donna agreed to come back to the Parent Council with a response re the RRED campaign.

3. **Principal's Report**

**Whole School Results**

Sheila reported on the third year of continuous improvement in attainment. Staff have implemented new National 5s and have done a fantastic job in improving and sustaining results. Katrina thanked staff on behalf of Parent Council for all their excellent work.

Attendance has also continued to improve with 95% attendance on returning for August, with the City average at 93.1%. Katrina commented on the bonus to the whole community that this brings with majority of students in school on a daily basis.

### **Community Access**

Footfall has increased and income is once again up.

### **Exclusions**

Sheila reported that the number of teaching days lost to exclusion has reduced by over 75% over the last three years – and that we have a noticeably good atmosphere throughout the school.

### **HMIE Quality Indicators**

Sheila advised that the school has moved in the right direction over the last three years with HMIE ratings for all key indicators now Very Good with 5.1 Curriculum Good/Very Good.

### **Next Steps**

- Curriculum – we are targeting new Highers for this year.
- Improving Literacy and Numeracy – we are taking a Cluster approach and will have around 100 P7s attending classes here on a weekly basis in English and Maths.
- Differentiation – we will continue to promote good practice to meet learners' needs.
- Building works – the refurbishment of the school continues with CDT Department expected to move back into D Block in September after installation of new windows, exterior and work to the roof.

Sheila has met with staff from the new Healthy Living Centre recently, it has been agreed that pop ups promoting the school will be placed there.

#### **4. Treasurers Report**

Ken advised that the current balance of the account is £643.53. As there are no pressing funding requests from the school agreed to hold this pot for possible expenditure required to advertise Parent Forum meeting. Agreed to make payment of £80.00 to Clerk, Anne-Marie Mooney.

#### **5. South West Neighbourhood Group**

Katrina attended the recent SW Neighbourhood meeting. The meeting discussed proposals for outline planning applications for new housing in the area. If the development goes ahead there could potentially be new families move into the area. Ollie is aware of a new residential children's unit in the Dumbryden area, with possible scope for new houses there also.

#### **6. Meet the Teachers**

Sheila asked the Parent Council to attend a social event for parents/carers of new S1 on 10<sup>th</sup> September and help with providing teas/coffees. Parent Council agreed to attend and would use the opportunity to speak to parents about holding a Parent Forum meeting.

## **7. Parent Forum**

Katrina outlined the rights and responsibilities of parents/carers as the Parent Forum and by having a child attend WHEC all parents have a voice in the running of the school. Although we have not held a meeting for a while we are committed to holding a meeting this session.

Agreed to try and bring parents together to get behind two issues – the lack of usable pitches and the RRED campaign. Agreed to hold a Parent Forum meeting in November to explore possible petition, using these issues as a rallying point for parents/carers and to take them to the wider community.

Agreed Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November as a suitable date for meeting to be held in the West Dining Area at 7.30pm. Kristyna offered to provide catering from HE students and to co-ordinate students attending meeting to speak to parents about RRED as there are a group working with Drama currently that are keen to be involved. Agreed to contact local Councillors to let them know. Anne-Marie to add details to the website. Agreed to try and gather parent email addresses to help with communication.

## **8. AOCB**

Nil

## **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parent Council is **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2014.**