

**WILLIAMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

**PARENT COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Monday 26th August 2013**

**Present:** Susan Begg                      Roddy Wilson  
                  Stuart Taylor                  Jerry Eve  
                  Ailsa Crum                              Andrea Cook  
                  Lesley Yeates                         Allan Boyd  
                  Karen Hussain                         Cress Maher  
                  Cllr Alan Lafferty                      Cllr Ralph Robertson  
                  Cllr Stewart Miller                    Cllr Gordon McCaskill  
                  Bobby Caldwell (Chair)  
                  Corinne Durand-Watson (Vice-Chair)

**In Attendance:**

John Fitzpatrick (Headteacher), Willie Inglis (Dep HT),

**1 Introduction & Apologies**

Apologies - Thomas Ferns

Resignations - Andrew Shephard, John Overdjiking, Brian Stokes, Jatinder Sumal.

The Parent Council would like to express its gratitude to the above members for the time and effort they contributed to the work of the PC, in some cases over many years. Thank you and our best wishes for the future.

**2 Minutes of and points arising from the previous meeting**

Minutes of the June meeting were accepted - no points arising that are not covered elsewhere.

### **3 Parent Council business for 2013/2014**

#### **i) Flying Start (FS)**

A letter & flyer promoting FS was sent out with the annual datacheck; we still need to develop overall promotion of what has been done and other means to improve knowledge and understanding how FS makes a difference to pupils work experience. Check with LBK re other FS video clips for website. **(BC)**

#### **ii) Communications**

Letter as mentioned above also informed re role of PC.

Additional formation added to PC pages - specifically newsletter from and links to National Parent Forum of Scotland - particularly useful for information on new National 4 & 5 qualifications - 'Nationals in a Nutshell'

Also information on East Renfrewshire Parent Chairs meetings and various useful presentations.

Thanks again to Robert Hendry.

#### **iii) Parent Council grant**

Reminder that we need to be thoughtful about the money available and how it might be used in support of PC objectives - let's not be caught out in the usual rush to spend in Feb 2014.

#### **iv) Other projects - Malawi**

A paper prepared by Jerry Eve (see attached) was circulated at the meeting and a fairly well-informed discussion took place.

The school has established a steering group (co-ordinated by Shirley Gibson & Chris McKenna) to develop some ideas as to what can be achieved by the group planning to visit next summer.

The general view was that the PC should support some activity with regard to the school's partnership in the country, but was not yet in a position to determine what that is.

The PC agreed to invite either SG or CMcK to a future meeting (Nov?) to discuss potential ideas which the PC could support or add value to.

#### 4 Headteacher's Report - John Fitzpatrick

i) John Wilson, Director of Education, ERC is retiring; there has been a bit of a delay in advertising the post and in the interim the three current Heads of Service will manage the department. PC to send a card **(BC)**

ii) A video of life in WHS has been produced and will soon be available on the website

iii) A new unit has been set up within the school for children with severe communications difficulties e.g. on autistic spectrum; attending mainstream and specialist classes. New staff have been appointed for this purpose.

iv) School role - WHS is to all intents and purposes at full capacity. S1, S2 & S4 are full; S3, S5 & S6 have a little flexibility - total role is now 1690.

v) Uniform - overall standard excellent, parental support has been tremendous, with some rare exceptions. This is the case across East Renfrewshire. The new Eastwood High School has just recently opened - a fantastic building, which is open to the public during Open Doors weekend Sat & Sun 7th & 8th Sept.

vi) Fresher's week - to promote school clubs & extra-curricular activities - held this week in school - very busy & well attended.

vii) School buses - there are some problems with transport to and from school. At the end of the school day, approx 300 children wait for buses at the designated area; if the buses are there on time i.e. before school ends, the situation is managed by staff to ensure the smooth embarkation of pupils onto buses. Three First Bus double deckers start from WHS, a fourth en route from Eaglesham makes a detour in to the school.

The problem arises when the buses are not in place on time, resulting in 300 children milling around. This can be compounded further by the Eaglesham bus arriving before the others, as it has a different route and that is the only bus that certain children can use. However almost all other children can use that one and it can result in those children who need to catch that particular bus losing out.

The PC has also received an email detailing difficulties which some children are having in getting a bus to school in the morning.

After discussion it was agreed that the councillors would request that the ERC representative on the Strathclyde Passenger Transport body (SPT) would contact Mr. Fitzpatrick to help facilitate a meeting with First Bus group to try to resolve these issues. An update will be provided as soon as possible. **(JF)**

viii) Curriculum for Excellence - a query had been raised specifically with regard to CfE and how transferable skills were assessed. It was agreed to invite Claire Raeburn, Dep HT to the next meeting to provide an overview of this topic.

## 5 Staff Report - Willie Inglis

WI presented an overview of SQA attainment at WHS in 2013.

The main points are that :

- 79% of pupils in S4 achieved 5 or more passes at Int 2 (national rate is 37%)
  - 74% of pupils in S5 achieved 3 or more passes at Higher (national rate is 27%)
  - 53% of pupils in S5 achieved 5 or more passes at Higher (national rate is 13%)
- (See the website for more details)

The Parent Council would like to add its congratulations to all pupils and teachers who worked so hard to achieve these outstanding results.

## 6 AOCB

i) Events to cover - S1 Parents Information evening - 7pm 17/9 (BC & ?)

The PC considered that it would help to promote Flying Start if we were able to participate in some way at the following two events :-

- STEM Fair - 5.30pm-8.30pm 2/10
- Careers Night - 29/10

Need to have a discussion with the organisers of both events (Shirley Gibson & Thomas Ferns and Nicola Penman & David Sudding respectively) and include KH, AB & ST, to see what can be put in place. **(BC)**

ii) School transport - see HT report above

iii) ERC Parent Chairs meeting dates - these meetings will take place on the following dates at the specified venues :-

- a) Tuesday 1st October 2013, St. Luke's HS
- b) Wednesday 12th February 2014, Mearns Castle HS
- c) Wednesday 21st May 2014, Williamwood HS

Note that we can add items to the agenda or ask ERC for specific items to be discussed; other PC members are also welcome to attend.

iv) ERC Fundraising event - BC attended this event on Wed 21st August. A number of grant giving bodies were present including Big Lottery, Co-op Bank and ERC. **BC** will circulate notes for information.

Dates of future meetings for 2013 /14 :-

- |                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 7th October 2013  | 18th November 2013 (AGM) |
| 13th January 2013 | 3rd March 2014           |
| 28th April 2014   | 9th June 2014            |