

**WILLIAMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**  
**PARENT COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING (DRAFT)**

**7.00pm on Monday 13th January 2013**

**Present:**      Moira Young              Jatinder Sumal              Stuart Taylor  
                 Cllr Gordon McCaskill      Cllr Stewart Miller      Roddy Wilson  
                 Brian Stokes              Corinne Durand-Watson (Vice-Chair)  
                 Elaine McPhillimy      Susan Begg              Andrea Cook  
                 Karen Hussain              Cllr Ralph Robertson  
                 Liz Burton-King              Bobby Caldwell (Chair)

**In Attendance:**

John Fitzpatrick (Headteacher), Willie Inglis (Dep HT) & Thomas Ferns (PT Science & Physics) (both new staff members)

**1 Introduction**

Item 6 - Pupil Council & charitable activity in WHS, has had to be postponed until the next meeting.

**2 Apologies**

Cress Maher              Allan Boyd              John Overdjiking  
Andrew Shephard      Lesley Yeates              Ailsa Crum

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

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

**4 Adding value to careers, training & work experience**

WI circulated a spreadsheet (attached) with the latest information on offers of work experience, training opportunities and support for university courses and those pupils who have benefited so far.

Generally agreed that this is very good progress.

WI requested help with a sales based work experience - anyone?

A paper, prepared by Dr J Burns, Hairmyres Hospital, was circulated - Applying for Medicine in Scotland - including the latest information on the application process; it suggests a fairly comprehensive approach including UKCAT, work experience and personal statement.

It could be useful background information for parents. Consider similar papers for other High Value courses?

Issue of universities now considering applicants economic and social background as defined by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), when selecting for places (see Post-16 Education Bill - information to follow).

Opportunities within Dept. for International Development were raised by AC; more information to follow.

Should the PC be publicising this more? - via an event? could the PC / WHS provide a certificate to employers / providers who participate?

- Action -**
- i) **JF** to write to Dr JB at Hairmyres Hospital seeking a formal arrangement for work experience.
  - ii) **WI** to coordinate a first meeting of prospective applicants to medicine between Prelims and Highers.

## **5 & 7 Headteacher's Report - John Fitzpatrick**

- i) New Staff representatives - JF introduced Willie Inglis (Dep HT) and Thomas Ferns (PT Science & Physics) as the new staff representatives.
- ii) Website - has now become the de facto newsletter; currently between 3,000-4,000 hits per week; are parents happy to get information from the website?
- iii) Xmas - usual hectic time; lots happening; very nice letter from the Lodging House Mission re grocery appeal.
- iv) Malawi visit review - group of 31 visited in September, 4th year of involvement in this project; review requested, produced substantial report for consideration.
- v) UCAS deadline has passed - approx. 250 pupils (about 85% of S6) require references; staff busy working on this - a huge exercise.
- vi) In-service days - there are two additional in-service days this year - Thursday 7th & Friday 8th February - to help teachers to prepare the

introduction of the new National 4 & 5 qualifications; in May & June, Claire Raeburn will be meeting with all PT's to review progress.

vii) Parental Support - how parents can support pupils preparation for exams; introduced as a pilot last year - well attended and well received; similar evening for Intermediates in Nov; evening for S5 parents on Mon 21/1/13.

viii) Prelims - diet begins 30th until 15th Feb; full time-table has been issued and is on the website; 2013 is the last diet of exams with the current arrangements for appeals. From 2014, new arrangements will apply - these may have an impact on examination results.

## 8 Parent Council Communications Update

The webpages are still in development, with changes being made and information being added regularly, but we need to consider how to make the PC pages better and more attractive to the Parent Forum (PF).

Why? - need to engage the PF and reflect PF views.

Generally a slow process, build up site, engagement and reputation over time.

Ideas / suggestions :-

- something on the school Front Page? PC headlines?
- pen portraits of PC members? why I got involved in the PC? what I think I have to offer?
- pupil blogs of work experience? (see Added Value project)
- survey parents at Parent Nights / other events? contact details? job opportunities? possible link to Careers Night?
- expand the communications beyond the PC pages - a new flyer perhaps?
- invite PF to comment on a specific issue - e.g. should WHS establish an OTC (Officer Training Corps)? (apparently Mearns Castle has an Air Cadet Corps)

- Action** -
- i) **KH** to draft text for a new flyer
  - ii) **BC** to draw up list of improvements to PC pages
  - iii) Photos of PC at next meeting & statement- **ALL**

## 9 Parent Council Grant

The grant is, we believe, in the region of £700. Timing is crucial - we don't have a lot of it! Decision need to be made and actions agreed by the end of the month - before the next PC meeting. The following ideas / suggestions were discussed :-

i) LBK has suggested producing some video for the school website relating to the Added Value project - she estimates this will cost approx £100 - £150 per session.

ii) new A5 flyer / leaflet (see item 9 above)

iii) contribution to the school hardship fund and / or charitable activity?

iv) laptop or tablet to show presentation at school events? - borrow schools!

v) acknowledging achievement / attainment via the colours awards?

**Action** - detailed proposals on any or all of these to BC by Sunday 20th Jan; thereafter recommendations and agreement via email.

## **10 AOCB**

i) Events to cover - S2 - 21/2; S1 - 7/5; S5 - 4/6; P7 17 & 18/6

ii) Other meetings

iii) Map of school catchment area - the 'delineated area' - this will be available for inspection by parents once it has been ratified; map circulated - seems clear and uncontroversial.

iv) Car park - issue of people ignoring the arrows in the car park indicating direction of travel and of people coming down the wrong way at the bus area, especially in Saturdays. Approx 1,000 people in school on Saturday am with music, sports etc. No major accidents in school. From 2nd April, parking restrictions will be deregulated to local authorities - i.e. it will be up to ERC to enforce parking restrictions throughout the authority. General view is that in comparison to most other schools in ERC, Williamwood does not have a major parking issue.

Dates of future meetings:-

14th January 2013

4th March 2013

15th April 2013

10th June 2013