

**WILLIAMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

**PARENT COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Monday 10th June 2013**

**Present:** Susan Begg                      Roddy Wilson  
                  Stuart Taylor                Cllr Alan Lafferty  
                  Ailsa Crum                            Andea Cook  
                  Lesley Yeates                        Brian Stokes  
                  Liz Burton-King                        Thomas Ferns  
                  Bobby Caldwell (Chair)

**In Attendance:**

John Fitzpatrick (Headteacher),

**1 Introduction & Apologies**

Apologies - Moira Young, Corinne Durand-Watson (Vice-Chair), Allan Boyd, Willie Inglis (Dep HT), Cress Maher, Karen Hussain, Jatinder Sumal, John Overdjiking, Cllr Mary Montague

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

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

**3 Flying Start (FS)**

FS spreadsheet updated & circulated prior to the meeting.

How do we improve things in terms of increasing the pool of potential work experience providers and improving the acknowledgement of participants?

- consider link on PTA Facebook page to FS video?
- include details of participants on PC pages on website?
- consider cheese & wine event for current & potential supporters?
- consider FS event / presence at Careers Night?
- consider a new FS banner for display in school?

**Action** - BC to explore

An invoice has been received from Sean for production of first video clip, which has been passed to WI to process payment.

**Action** - WI as above

10 (?) pupils have been suggested for participation in the next video clip - LBK will meet with them next week - possibly Tuesday?

**Action** - LBK as above

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

- S1 intake will be approx 280 - with around 100 placing requests
- staffing - some retirements, some promotions
- School Plan Development Priorities (on website)
- exams went well - pupils well prepared; predictions look encouraging
- SQA invigilators full of praise for pupils approach, behaviour and attitude
- John Wilson, Director of Education is retiring, August? - might be appropriate for PC to consider sending a card / letter ?
- 7 heads of secondary schools met to discuss the schedule of new exams for S4 next May - the new National 4 qualification is assessed via coursework in school and moderated - no exam - therefore no study leave? this may apply to ~30 of ~300 pupils
- consider extended work experience via FS?
- bring FS people in to school to develop work & life skills?
- possible project work for N4? - no as this is done at much earlier stage
- this may apply to approx 1/5th of 1400 pupils in ERC
  
- need at some point to consider issue of bypassing qualifications - for example - on ave 150 pupils gain Maths at Higher and of those, approx 90 get an A - therefore why bother with Int 2 / Nat 4?

Question re fast-tracking? - not for a full cohort, but on a case-by-case basis

#### **5 Parent Council Communications Update**

- school has ~900 Twitter followers
- text message is best bet when trying to reach most / nearly all parents - cost approx £60 / £70
- new folders for ERC Chairs meetings & National Parent Forum of Scotland (very good series of leaflets on new Nat 4 & 5 qualifications)

**Action** - BC to liaise with Robert Hendry

## **6 Staff Report - Thomas Ferns**

School website continues to be the main source of information for parents with approx 360,000 hits (visits), reducing the need for numerous newsletters.

The S6 prom was well-attended and all students were well-behaved; following the S6 graduation the next day they enjoyed a BBQ and curry & karaoke night! A video diary is now online - Mr Inglis received much praise.

Recent sports events went well.

Some forthcoming events :-

- Cabaret - next two nights (11th & 12th June) in the drama studio
- P7 Information evenings 17th & 18th June
- P7 follow S1 timetable - 19th & 20th June
- Got To Dance Williamwood - main theatre 20th June
- Big Day Out - Tuesday 25th June

School garden has now been established - thanks to Tom Smart and Awards For All; educational space - will benefit all and especially Isobel Mair pupils; PTA has contributed funds towards buying plants.

Over the next few weeks there will be school trips to Disneyland Paris and World Challenge to Africa.

Uniform - standard now established and we need to maintain it.

## **7 ERC Education Department**

The PC was asked to consider two documents and feedback comments to ERC Education Dept.

i) Local Improvement Plan 2013-2016 - the general consensus was that this document was neither written nor presented with parents in mind - not particularly easy to follow!

Question -are there implications for WHS? - HTs' contributed to the LIP - perhaps for parents it is best to focus on the individual School Plan

ii) Parental Involvement Strategy 2013-2016 - the general consensus was that this document was more relevant to the PC and was more easily understood. The PC agreed with the overall tone and content of this document and look forward to working with ERC Education Dept and, in particular the Head Teacher, to support the implementation of the plan.

## 8 AOCB

i) Events to cover - S3 Parents - 13/6? (ST may be able to cover this)  
- P7 Info - 17 & 18/6 (BC)

ii) PTA - the PC would like to acknowledge and congratulate the PTA on raising the tremendous sum of over £5,000 during the last year - well done to all those whose time and effort generated such a fantastic amount.

iii) new projects and volunteering opportunities - this will be picked at the next meeting.

iv) Thank you - the PC would like to acknowledge the contribution made over the years by those members who are now leaving us - thank you very much.

In particular Moira Young would like to express her thanks to all the teaching staff - whose commitment, enthusiasm and support has been invaluable and especially Mr. Willie Inglis & Mr. Mark Falconer who have been outstanding.

v) Dates of meetings for 2013 /14 :-

26th August 2013  
7th October 2013  
18th November 2013 (AGM)  
13th January 2014  
3rd March 2014  
28th April 2014  
9th June 2014