

WILLIAMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

7.00pm on Monday 4th March 2013

Present: Corinne Durand-Watson (Vice-Chair)
Elaine McPhillimy Andrew Shephard
Lesley Yeates John Overdjiking
Liz Burton-King Cllr Gordon McCaskill
Jerry Eve Cllr Ralph Robertson
Roddy Wilson Susan Watson
Cllr Alan Lafferty Allan Boyd
Stuart Taylor Karen Hussain
Cress Maher Ailsa Crum
Bobby Caldwell (Chair)

In Attendance:

John Fitzpatrick (Headteacher), Willie Inglis (Dep HT) & Thomas Ferns (PT Science & Physics) (staff members);
Fraser Carle, (S6 Dep) Chair of Charities Committee

1 Introduction & Apologies

Apologies - Brian Stokes, Susan Begg, Jatinder Sumal
Philip Burdge has resigned

2 Minutes of and points arising from the previous meeting

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

3 Headteacher's Report - John Fitzpatrick

i) Prelims - currently analysing data of marks

ii) Easter School - more than 300 sessions over 9 days; £21 per week; as usual no charge for pupils who receive free school meals (all details on the website)

iii) Activity to support the lowest achieving 20% of pupils - a group of 31 S4 pupils studying Int 1 English went to Castle Toward, funding from ERC, first time for WHS, not aware of any other school doing anything similar.

iv) Malawi trip, June 2014 – S4 pupils have had a presentation, 51 applications submitted; will now write to parents confirming interest, cost approx £2,000; may need to consider possibility of 2 trips or reducing numbers; review of previous trip has led to a change of focus, with more emphasis on doing practical work; considering joint working with local churches which are also involved in work in Malawi.

4 Charitable activity in WHS - Fraser Carle, (S6 Dep) Chair of Charities Committee

Last year the work of the Charities Committee helped raise almost £3,000 to support Save The Children, Cash For Kids & Children in Need - via bake sales, chilli challenge & two 'dress as you please' days.

Mary's Meals has benefited by approx £8,000 in the past 5 years - fund-raising ventures include the Slave Auction (of S6 pupils & teachers!), leg-waxing and S1 piggy backs!

Charities Week starts on Monday 11th March - the aim is to raise £3,000 supporting 5 charities - Malawi, World Wildlife Fund, Comic Relief, Oxfam & Lauren Currie Twilight Foundation. (Lauren Currie was a pupil of WHS who sadly died in October 2010 - see link <http://www.thelaurencurrietwilightfoundation.org/>)

The PC thanked Fraser for his confident presentation and wished everyone well in their fundraising activities this year.

5 Adding value to careers, training & work experience - Liz Burton-King & John Overdjiking

The filming and most of the editing for the video has been completed, minor technical issues re export format to be resolved. Video is approx 3 mins long and features JO outside school, informing & appealing to parents to get involved. Pupils will need a bit more coaching to convey the usefulness of the programme.

Use of the term 'Flying Start' in the script to describe the benefit to pupils - suggest this become the name we have all been searching for? Vote on adopting Flying Start as the new name for the Added Value Project overwhelmingly approved!

Suggestion that letter be prepared jointly on behalf of school & PC to thank providers & participants.

Action - i) **WI & BC** - to draft letter to thank those who have participated in the project so far.

ii) **LBK** to circulate link for video as soon as.

6 Staff Report - Thomas Ferns

- information evening for the parents of S5 regarding the S6 options process.
- two members of the PTA and Kate Sinclair have met with Man's World to agree a better quality skirt for girls.
- 21st Jan information evening for parents with children studying Higher subjects which was positively evaluated – this helped to give parents more of an insight into what pupils need to do to prepare for examinations.
- 5th February - there was a very well attended information evening for S2 parents about the S3 options process.
- two in-service days on 7th and 8th Feb - one of these days was an additional day for secondary schools only (not primary) to allow teachers more time to prepare for the new National 4 and National 5 qualifications.
- prelim examinations ran from 30th January until 15th February.
- JF carried out a major survey questionnaire with all 830 pupils from S1 to S3. The first part asked questions on the CfE themes of *challenge* and *application*. The second part asked pupils what they liked about Williamwood and one thing they would like to see improved. The results were shared with all staff in the school – a 55 page document containing all responses.

Coming up:

- Pupil Council has organised an Eco Week this week to promote recycling and protecting the environment; various activities each lunchtime – details on the school website.
- Next week is Charities Week which concludes with a 'dress as you please' day on Friday 15th March (also Comic Relief red nose day).
- PTA Quiz is also on Friday 15th March; very popular event and tickets are on sale now.

7 Local Development Plan - Alan Lafferty

ERC's LDP is now published for consultation. Usually the plan looks ahead 5 years - the period this time is up to 2025. It covers all sorts of things such as transport, environment, housing, infrastructure etc.

Land supply- ERC is obliged to supply land for 5,000 units of housing, the bulk of which will be at sites in Barrhead and Newton Mearns.

Schools in ERC are run at capacity - but from placing requests, not from residents. There are no plans to increase housing development in the WHS catchment area.

Plans are available online and in local libraries.

Consultation is open until 1st May 2013, thereafter it is expected that the plan will be adopted by ERC in Spring 2014, although it may be subject to change by the Scottish Government.

(Since the meeting, Ralph Robertson has circulated the link, see below)

<http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1598>

8 Parent Council Communications Update

Copies of draft leaflets were circulated; agreed that more details and/or examples of what the PC does were needed e.g. role in recruitment & selection of HT & senior staff - note that this does not appear in the PC Constitution!

Agreed to focus on production of one leaflet - promoting Flying Start - at present. Will review generic PC leaflet at next meeting.

The web pages 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).

Action -

- i) **KH** to redraft text for a new gatefold flyer & circulate
- ii) **BC** to draw up list of improvements to PC pages
- iii) Photos of PC at next meeting & statement- **ALL**
- iv) **BC** to arrange new tab for 'Flying Start'

9 Parent Council Grant

Formal decision taken to hand balance of grant - approx £950 - over to school to be spent as follows :-

- i) £300 donation to Charities Week
- ii) remainder to be used, at discretion of JF/WI to support pupil welfare

For grant in next financial year, consider further video to support Flying Start and develop ideas around a Leadership Award.

10 AOCB

- i) Events to cover - S1 - 7/5; S5 - 4/6; P7 17 & 18/6
- ii) Other meetings - ERC Parent Chairs Meeting 13/2/13 - minutes to be posted
- iii) PTA Quiz - on Friday 15th March - anyone interested in forming a PC team, contact **BC**.

Dates of future meetings:

15th April 2013

10th June 2013