

WILLIAMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

Monday 7th October 2013

Present: Stuart Taylor Jerry Eve
 Ailsa Crum Roddy Wilson
 Lesley Yeates Allan Boyd
 Karen Hussain Cress Maher
 Cllr Ralph Robertson
 Corinne Durand-Watson (Vice-Chair)
 Bobby Caldwell (Chair)

In Attendance:

John Fitzpatrick (Headteacher), Thomas Ferns

1 Introduction & Apologies

Apologies - Susan Begg, Andrea Cook, Cllr Alan Lafferty, Cllr Mary Montague

2 Minutes of and points arising from the previous meeting

The situation with regard to buses has improved at present, but still looking to see this sustained in the longer term.

East Renfrewshire Council has appointed Mairi Shaw as its new Director of Education. Mairi was previously a Head of Service in the Education Dept. The PC would like to wish Mairi well in her new post. **BC** to write a short letter to Mairi to this effect.

No other points arising that are not covered elsewhere.

Minutes of the June meeting were accepted.

3 Malawi Trip - Shirley Gibson

SG gave the PC a presentation on WHS preparation for the S6 trip to Malawi in June 2014.

The trip will re-inforce the partnership with Ekwendeni Girls School and will comprise 30 girls & 4 boys. The pupils have set themselves a fundraising target of £10,000 - £4,000 of which has already been raised - to support development work in Ekwendeni. Note that this sum does not cover any travel costs of £2,300 each which will be raised by the young people themselves in addition to the target set.

As has been mentioned in previous minutes, JF asked for a review to be carried out after the last visit to Malawi in 2012 in order to clarify the purpose and direction of the partnership. The review was conducted by Rev. Jean Roddick, Rev. Catherine Beattie (both school chaplains), Charlie Clegg (Head Boy) and Stephanie Boyce (Depute Head Girl) and completed in January of this year.

Among the recommendations were :-

- to broaden the partnership to encompass the wider community
- to engage more with the Mary's Meals project
- to consider working with the local primary school
- to consider supporting the Learning Difficulties Resource Room

For the 2014 trip, three teachers - SG, Chris McKenna & Stephen McFadden - will accompany the school pupils. as well as both chaplains mentioned above.

How might the PC support WHS with this venture?

SG suggested some options :-

- sponsorship
- Malaptop - company will refurbish laptops to basic specification - WHS party will transport then to Ekwendweni
- Fashion Show - on 29th Nov - sell tickets?
- support school fees for Ekwendeni Girls' School - £220 pa

RR suggested a plant sale provided by local nursery - Fire Service did this for many years raising a great deal of money.

PC thanked SG for presentation - any further questions - submit to BC.

4 Staff Report - Thomas Fearn

TF ran through a number of events and activities that had taken place in the school and highlighted some future events in the next couple of months.

E.g. the Senior Awards Night, Race Night, STEM Fair, Art Exhibition, Jazz Festival, trips to Poland & Paris, Careers Night, PTA Xmas Shopping Night and Question Time. All details on the school website.

5 Parent Council business for 2013/2014

Given time constraints, a few items have been deferred until the next meeting.

i) Flying Start (FS) - AB

AB presented a brief history of the point of FS and the steps taken so far, including the production of the leaflet & video, banners and attending events.

We need to improve data capture - who is volunteering and what do they do?

What more can we do to promote FS to parents?

Other next steps include a job Q&A designed by KH; support at Careers Night; the possibility of tapping into S4 work experience?; a focus on personal testimony - of both pupils and providers - Flying Start stories!

Above all we want to ensure that FS has longevity.

Next meeting of subgroup tba.

ii) Communications - deferred

iii) Parent Council grant - deferred

6 Headteacher's Report - John Fitzpatrick

JF introduced a short video - approx 12 mins - about WHS. It is intended to give an informed overview of the range of activities in the school. This will be posted on the website very soon. The PC agreed that the video was very well done and gave an accurate portrayal of life in WHS.

JF, along with Claire Raeburn, will organise a series of short - 20 mins? - sessions on various aspects of CfE, taking place at the next PC meetings. If any particular topics are required to be addressed, please email BC.

7 AOCB

- i) Events to attend / cover - Careers Evening 29th Oct
- to be discussed by FS Subgroup - meeting tba
- ii) Parent Chairs meeting 1st Oct - defer
- iii) Feedback on STEM Fair
- consider FS merchandise pens?
- something for people to do e.g. careers / guidance quiz?
- iv) Preparation for AGM 18th Nov - **BC** to prepare report & circulate to PC for comment by end Oct. Consider using text message - £70?
- v) New Director of Education - see above

Dates of future meetings for 2013 /14 :-

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