

WILLIAMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

Monday 25th April 2016

Present : Abid Mohammed Melanie Whyte (Vice-chair)
 Cllr Stewart Miller Bobby Caldwell (Chair)

In Attendance:

Willie Inglis (HT)

1&2 Introduction & Apologies

Apologies received from - Steve Galloway, Cress Maher, Karen Hussain, Pramurtta Majumdar, Corinne Durand, Ailsa Crum, Roddy Wilson, Shabana Noor
Cllr Ralph Robertson, Cllr Gordon McCaskill
Cllr Mary Montague, Cllr Alan Lafferty

3 Minutes of and points arising from the previous meeting

No points arising not covered elsewhere - February minutes approved.

4 Headteacher's Report & Staff Report - Willie Inglis

WI ran through a number of the events that have taken place recently, among them the following :-

S4 Options Information Evening
Iceland trip (the country, not the supermarket!), 43 pupils
Annual book fair
BBC School Report involving S2 pupils
PTA Quiz - fundraising for Malawi
11 pupils attended the Model UN Conference at George Watson's College in Edinburgh
Spring concert
Young Musician of the Year - congratulations to all participants and winners

As usual more information and more events on the school website.

WI addressed an issue that had been raised by Steve Galloway, PC member, concerning pupils' attendance particularly at the end of term and how the school deals with this.

The rules are quite clear - children are expected to attend on all schooldays. Any absence is clearly recorded as such and parents are expected to provide a letter to that effect.

Staff are encouraged to continue working until the last day of term.

WI advised that pupil attendance on the final day of the Easter term - Friday 1st April - was good.

One issue of concern relates to pupils who simply 'disappear' during the day - this is rigorously followed up by staff.

WI is happy to discuss this further with any parent.

AM raised the issue of the length of terms which seems somewhat arbitrary given that some are much longer and others have more holidays.

While WI may have views on this, in short holidays and terms are fixed by agreement between Holyrood and local authorities.

With regard to the Young Musician of the Year Event - this was held on a different scale from the past year when it was held in Williamwood Church. It was decided to keep the event more focused in the school. It may consider going outside again next year.

A query was raised with regard to the Options choices and the availability of certain subjects. Some subjects are generally more popular than others - eg STEM - others go through phases of popularity - currently French, PE, Modern Studies, Geography. Almost all pupils are able to study the subjects of their choice and the school will always endeavour to ensure that pupils have a broad range of options from which they can choose.

5 Joint Project with Pupil Council - KH & BC

KH had prepared a note of the last meeting on 15th March and it has been circulated to the PC.

Included below for information. Next meeting tbc.

- Date of 2nd June - confirmed
- Canteen can cater again and will charge £3.05 per head for sandwiches and cakes.

- This time we'll have more junior servers, as the 4th years upwards will not be around due to exams. But we figured that would be fine as serving responsibilities lighter than last time.
- We might need adult helpers this time, though, for setting up in the morning (PC/PTA helpers)
- PC/PTA and possibly other teachers to do pick ups again - different person/people for Bobby to pick up re car door situation. (Or did you mention different car? Can't recall)
- PTA will buy 12 cake platters, but the request has to come via one of the school departments, like Hospitality or Art. The PTA would prefer to see themselves funding requests from the school, not the PC.
- Lindsay will send out Save the Date invites on the week starting 18th April. On the invite she'll mention the possibility of videoing some of the old folk about their school day experiences. Then the kids will follow this up with a phone call to see who's willing to talk. The Video guy will go round and video them before the event and this will play on the day.
- There will be a bake sale to raise funds again. I suggested that maybe some of the PC could also provide baking. Lindsay will tell us when it is and we could send out an email asking everyone on the PC to get involved. This will be after Easter
- Fiona suggested a dress-up day to raise funds. Instead of dress as you please - kids would dress up in old fashioned/ primary/ Harry Potter uniform. Lindsay to ask Willie.
- Someone will interview Ralph about old Williamwood. Lindsay is going to look into possibility of getting cluster primaries involved in this given that P7 coming up for induction around that time. Might be nice for them to get involved in the history.
- Agenda roughly as follows:
 - 1.30 - 1.45. background musical thing, not too intrusive. Allow guests to look at boards and mingle
 - seating will be assigned to pupils and teachers/PC/PTA only - allow guests to sit with friends etc
 - 1.45 - 2.15: tea and sandwiches served. Possibly tape of old school songs in background?
 - 2.15 - Start presentation. Possibly playground games demonstration?
 - 2.45 finish. Everyone out before bell, by 3.00

6 Flying Start

Staff are looking for support from parents from nursing and dentistry backgrounds to help with interviews.

Would it be possible to run a CV / Applications workshop or seminar similar to last years? Perhaps more targeted to specific careers? Suggest a separate meeting sometime in May to discuss further.

7 AOCB

i) Recruitment - BC is meeting the Chair of Netherlee PC on 29th April; attending the Carolside PC meeting on 24th May; Busby PC yet to be arranged.

ii) Events to attend -

- a) S1 Parents evening - 5th May (4-6.30pm)
- b) Parent Conference - 19th May (7-9pm)
- c) Information Evening P7's - Monday 6th June
- d) Information Evening P7's - Tuesday 7th June
- e) S3 Parents evening - 9th June (4-6.30pm)

Dates of future meetings:

13th June 2016