

## **Dumfries Academy Parent Council**

### **Minutes**

**15<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**Present:** Mrs Joanne Dillon Rector, Dr Julianna Gordon DHT, Sharron Harper Chair, Lucile Giritat Treasurer, Liza Vinnie secretary, Melanie McEwen Parent, Ananda Parent, Dr Gillian Brydson Director of Skills, Education and learning, Larann Foss Quality Improvement Manager, Scott Grant Educational Project Management Specialist, Councillor John Campbell (Nith Ward)

**Apologies:** Laura Farrell

### **Discussion with invited guests re DLT/School refurbishment:**

Key issues discussed:

- Gillian Brydson offered apologies for the news of the loss of LEIP3 funding, citing government requirements as the reason.
- Owing to inflation, refurbishment budgets have tripled.
- Joanne Dillon stated students' welfare is top priority and feels these needs are not being met due to the lack of improvements being made.
- Work has been delayed by 14 months due to waiting times/ loss of funding.
- Councillor John Campbell stated "Capital funding school assets" are available to keep buildings safe and in good working order. Currently, Dumfries Academy is B rated (good) in terms of repair.
- All present invited to lobby Education Committee to move forward with capital investment-funded refurbishment, without delay. Plans to be discussed following the meeting (NB: Melanie McEwen helpfully offered to take a lead on this on behalf of the Parent Council).

### **Matters arising from previous meeting:**

- Email has been sent to all staff regarding the MOOL clothing appeal – with a positive response. Additionally, a post has been shared on social media reaching out to parents and carers.
- Laura Farrell has resigned her Vice Chair position. Sharron expressed thanks for her enthusiasm and hard work on behalf of the pupils of Dumfries Academy hitherto.
- Role of Vice Chair will be advertised on social media in due course.
- Breakfast Club is now open 5 days per week thanks to PC funding- available to all students, location moved to The Minerva (previously the Main Hall). A poster will be given to school showing PC funding.
- Equality boxes are now available in the Minerva.

**HT Report** shared.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- At 31/10/2023, there is a balance of £1,583.61 (incl £68.00 on PC Paypal account)
- Income since last meeting: £86 from lottery (October)
- Expenditure since last meeting: £60 lottery prizes
- Outstanding expenditure: £10 June Lottery awaiting bank details of winner/£20 2nd prize January 2023 lottery (also awaiting winner's bank details)
- End of Year financial statement has been submitted to Dumfries and Galloway Council on 07/10/2023.
- Education allowance should be paid shortly to PC.

### **Breakfast Club/Magic Breakfast funding bid**

Forever Manchester bid was successful. Magic Breakfast has offered a 50% discount for the first year of breakfast club. A vote was taken and there was unanimous agreement that PC would fund this first year. School social media to reflect this position.

**Burns' Supper planning.**

- Date has been set for Burns supper – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January
- Liza will provide tablet for all tables
- Sharron to speak to PE staff re dances, work on poetry and music
- Dr Gordon will contact Hayley Re catering
- S6 committee to be approached for support/ input
- Current P7s to be invited to attend
- Fundraising options are Tombola or Raffle
- Dr Gordon explained that tokens could be sold in exchange for alcohol, obviating the need for an alcohol license
- Ananda kindly offered to create 18 flags to represent all languages spoken within school

**AOCB**

- Councillors to be invited to next meeting.
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**Date of next meeting: Thursday 18/01/24 at 6.30pm**

NB: Please note there will be a Burns' Supper planning meeting the same evening at 6pm.

Liza Vinnie, Secretary