



## Dumfries Academy Parent Council Minutes

02/10/24 6.30pm

**Present:** JD, LV (Chair) , MMc (Notetaker), LG, SH, IH, Pupil Reps: TH, KM, EP

Apologies KH, JG

**Minutes** from previous meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May approved.

**Matters arising** - Loreburn parent council team call will take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30 PM.

**Action – Liza to send out invite.**

**Appointment of Office Bearers.**

Melanie McEwen nominated as Vice Chair/Secretary by Liza Vinnie. Seconded by Lucille Giriat.

Melanie accepted and stated the intention to take this on for one year only.

Melanie then agreed to take the minutes.

**Funding requests**

**Home economics £7000 IH**

IH spoke to her paper requesting support from the PC for delivery of curricular Home Economics due to a shortfall in funding between the 7K delivery cost and the allowance provided by the school from the authority. JD reported the school budget in total only 40K.

**Actions**

**IH and LV to meet to discuss options including:**

- **Fundraising by PC**
- **Plan for HE to cater at PC events, charging parents for refreshments/asking for donations**
- **Exploring the possibility of sponsorship by local businesses**

**PC also agreed to send a letter raising concern with Education Team and Elected Members about the lack of funding to deliver such a vital area of the curriculum to support good HWB.**

**JD & IH to investigate the possibility of asking parents with the means to pay to make a donation.**

**Christmas carols fundraiser SH**

Christmas Carol Concert to take place on 14<sup>th</sup> December and PC asked for support to help work towards the 5K balance needed.

**Actions**

**PC agreed to help publicise and to provide a hamper for raffle.**

**All PC Members to reach out to networks for prizes.**

**MMc to arrange a meeting with SM to let her know about hamper and suggestions re selling recording of a song, perhaps with teachers & pupils.**

#### **Parent council communications**

PC requested a parent council area on the school website. Minutes, papers and contact information to be uploaded to enable all parents to easily access. JD agreed and provided named contact on staff to liaise with.

#### **Actions**

**All PC Members to send head and shoulder shots to JD for website.**

**JD to ask Mr Wilson to add PC email address to enable people to contact.**

**SH and LV to liaise to give the new chair access to the PC email and the fb page.**

#### **HT Report**

JD presented her report outlining successes and challenges. Discussions took place recognising the significant achievements particularly the addition of a school show and understanding the challenges faced with staffing.

#### **Actions**

**PC to send an email to the Education Team and Elected Members expressing disappointment at the HT having to spend providing information which has already been requested regarding the upgrade to the toilets and following up requests to have the broken windows sorted.**

**Regarding the Awards Ceremony JD will feedback to Miss McGuire that the PC is willing to meet and feedback ideas and suggestions to help reinvigorate the format and all agreed that the emphasis on solely academic awards did not reflect the full breadth achievements by pupils at DA.**

**PC to post on facebook reminding parents that any technical problems with the Parent Portal app should be taken up with the school office staff as they are well placed to support.**

#### **Treasurers report**

LG presented report. A balance of £1526 remains in the PC account with £130 outstanding payments. Lottery income going down and agreed need to drive this up if possible.

#### **Actions**

**LG to complete end of year financial statement using template for 2022/23 as the template for 23/24 not supplied.**

**MMc to meet with S6 pupils for help with increasing lottery uptake.**

**SH and LG to liaise to finalise steps needed for mew signatories.**

#### **Possible Employability Event for parents**

MMc shared opportunity for PC to apply for funding to offer an event for parents to help them to find out about employment opportunities, training and support. Funding covers the cost of running the event.

#### **Action**

**MMc to share details via Whats App and LV to contact to express an interest.**

## **DGPFC UPDATE**

SH thanked LV for sharing update which was very comprehensive.

### **Structure of school week**

LV asked for any actions required or further input although it was recognised that the consultation had not been well managed and survey not well constructed. One obvious and important positive is the attraction of the asymmetric week when recruiting new teachers.

### **Actions**

**PC to encourage parents to take part in consultation.**

### **Christmas arrangements**

c/f to next meeting

Burns supper

SH reminded meeting to plan early for Burns Supper. Date has been agreed as Friday 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Actions**

**JD to advise school catering team of date**

**MMc to update event spreadsheet used last year and circulate.**

**PC to meet separately to plan.**

**All expenses to be receipted and go through PC treasurer.**

AOB

LG raised challenge of timings for decision making around school trips and asked that consideration given to providing more information prior to deposit deadline to inform discussions / decisions.

MMc agreed and suggested a plan of all available trips available to inform decisions.

### **Action**

**PC acknowledge challenges, particularly around staffing capacity.**

**JD noted and will share with staff team who are trying to work towards a three year plan.**

**Meeting closed at 20.25.**