

Dumfries Academy Parent Council



14.1.2026

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Joanne Dillon Headteacher (JD), Liza Vinnie (Chair), Lucile Giriat (Treasurer), Melanie McEwen (Vice Chair and Secretary). Parents Joanne and Rad

Apologies from **Dr Gordon** (who is now back on the parent council as staff rep).

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were **approved**.

3. Burns Supper Update

- An MC is to be identified for the night.
- A letter / flyer will be created to help promote the event.
- Liza to email the elected members in the council to extend an invite
- Morag Kell is approaching Jim Brown too 'Toast the Lassies'.

Agreed that a press release would be useful focusing on the schools' strong Burns legacy, the inclusive and community nature of the event and to promote the fact that it is a licensed fundraising event by the parent council to support school pupils throughout the year.

JD to lead on press release and press release to be **emailed to Parent Council**.

Melanie to update spreadsheet and circulate. Agreed tasks

Scottish themed Hamper to be provided by Parent Council as first prize for raffle. Other prizes include:

- **Casa Mia meal voucher:** JD to confirm availability.
- **Anderson's kilts:** Dr Gordon to follow up.
- **TB Watson:** Melanie to ask regarding involvement.

Baking/craft corner for younger attendees a success. Liza to organize for this year.

Drinks to be organised with TB Watson (sale/return).Melanie

Raffle tickets to be ordered for sale x 500 for presale if possible (Lucile).

Haggis purchase: Melanie (Kilnford / Loch Arthur suggested).

JD to check on piper. If not Joanne had a back up.

Other suggestions:

Check if ESOL can provide selection of pupils to each read a paragraph of a Burn Poem translated into their language. JD to link with Morag Kell and add to programme.

Rad agreed to share details with partners of the school to support ticket sales.

4. Head Teacher's Report

- Recent events have been successful, though there were low numbers for junior dance and consideration to be given to alternative options for junior dance.
- A high number of fundraising and hospitality events took place in December, with very positive outcomes in terms of skills development and fundraising.
- Kindness Café is receiving good publicity, with invited guests attending to celebrate success.
- Christmas services were well received; pupil behaviour was exemplary (Consideration to be given to celebrating other religions.)

Accreditations and Awards

- Silver Heritage Heroes status achieved.
- Fair Trade re-accreditation active.
- LGBTQI re-accreditation underway; will involve significant training.

BGE / Senior Phase

- IDL approach and themed learning working well to support young people's progress and achievement.
- In the senior phase, vocational, skills-based pathways continue to be developed and expanded.

Family Engagement

- Family cooking and netball events were well received and this approach of small themed events is working well and continues to attract different parents.
- HWB focus group was a very positive experience, with constructive feedback from parents.

Staffing Update

- Chemistry vacancy remains a challenge following a late candidate withdrawal. All possible options have been explored and the post has been incentivised with additional responsibility.

- **PE maternity cover** at PT post and **Biology** at PT post will be advertised. **Mr Aitkin** leaving for a secondment and a temporary PE teacher in place to cover **Mr Dillon's PE & Dr Gordons Wider Achievement** due to increased workload on deputies due to reduced mgt allowance.

Building Update

- No update currently.
- Outcome of Stage 1 bid expected in February.
- Concern raised that ongoing amendments to plans are not going through full consultation and due process.

4. Finance

- Treasurers report shared and noted.
- A **template for bidding for Pupil Councils to apply to the Parent Council funds** is to be created. It was agreed that we would pilot this approach. Year groups could apply separately or combine to a total fund value of £300

AOCB

Joanne to resend link for 'Connects' which has now been approved as OK to share with parents. Joanne will attend future schools events to explain how this can support parents to save money.

Actions Summary

Action	Responsible
Create finance bid template for Pupil Councils	Parent Council. (PC)
Identify Burns Supper MC	PC
Create Burns Supper flyer/letter	PC
Email Elected Members re Burns Supper	Liza
Confirm Speakers	Morag
Draft & send press release	Joanne Dillon
Confirm Casamia voucher	Joanne Dillon
Follow up Anderson's kits	Dr Gordon
Contact TB Watson	Melanie
Organise home baking	Lucile
Organise drinks and raffle	PC / TB Watson
Order 500 raffle tickets	Lucile
Organise piper	Joanne Dillon. Backup - Joanne

Action

Check ESOL reading option
Run baking corner
Buy haggis
Share ticket info with partners
Send Connects link

Responsible

Morag Kell
Liza
Melanie
PC
Joanne