

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting

Johnstone High School

Monday 7th December 2015

Attendees: Diane Spence (Chair), Anne Campbell, Kirsten Lyons, Lorna Hendriks, Gillian Williams, Elaine Gray, Susan Gregson, Elaine McDonald, Michael Dewar, Lynne Hollywood, Ryan Miller, Mick Fulton, Lorraine Dick, Graeme Johnston, Councillor Iain McMillan, Councillor John Hood

Apologies: Paul Cameron (Secretary), Aileen Brown, Shirley Ormond, Neil Fowler, Lesley Reid, Jennifer Ballantyne, Martine Wylie, Jacqueline Tavendale, Andy Steel

Minutes of Last Meeting

- Update on DofE awards is that there were 28 places available and 30 pupils have registered an interest. It has been decided to accept all 30 at this stage as there tends to be some drop out.
- Mrs Hollywood has talked to Miss Sturgeon about transition of non-associated primary schools.
- The open evening for parents of P7 pupils in associated schools was a success. Mr Dewar thanked volunteers from the Parent Council for supporting this event.
- Mrs Hollywood thanked those who made comment about the Senior Phase Curriculum given the very short notice. These comments from parents have been combined with those from staff and fed back. Mrs Hollywood stressed that this was still at the very early stages and that any change would not be implemented before August 2017.
- It was agreed that a further discussion on Insight would take place in the new year. Mrs Hollywood suggested this should be in February when the information is updated to include leaver destinations.
- Councillor John Hood asked to re-open the discussion about McGill's buses as the buses were not turning up or arriving late causing pupils to be late. He said that he had a lot of complaints from parents about this. Mrs Dick said she was not getting complaints but it was acknowledged that this was probably because it was not an issue with school buses but with public transport. Mr Dewar asked if the Councillors could go straight to McGill's but Councillor Iain McMillan said that McGill's tended to do as they please as they have the monopoly. There was discussion about privilege passes and the option of parents getting together to make a private hire.
- **ACTION** Diane will write to McGill's on behalf of the Parent Council and invite Colin Napier along to our next meeting to discuss this issue. Diane will involve Martine Wylie with this action as she has been concerned about this issue for some time.

Membership of the Parent Council

Mrs Hollywood explained that Mr Miller had volunteered to join as a Senior Management Team (SMT) member. Mrs Dick to attend as and when required. A space is left for another member of staff or parent. Councillor Hood was asked to join as a parent but declined. It was agreed that Diane would look to the waiting list of 20 parents who had expressed an interest in joining and choose someone whose child came from the least represented associated primary. It was agreed that in order to keep the waiting list of parents engaged they should be approached when there is any focus group or questionnaire required. Councillor Hood suggested that a joint meeting with the parent council and the parents on the waiting list. Councillor McMillan suggested that the parents are invited as observers.

ACTION Diane to send a copy of the Parent Council constitution to new members Elaine , Susan and Andy.

ACTION Diane to invite a new parent member from the waiting list to join the Parent Council based on current associated primary school representation.

ACTION Diane/School to send a letter to parents on the Parent Council waiting list asking them if they wish to come to Parent Council meetings on a rotating basis.

Head Teacher's Report

- Mr Dewar began by advising everyone that Mr Hayburn has now retired and that the current interim arrangements will continue until Christmas, thereafter Mrs Hollywood will take over as acting Head Teacher. Mr Dewar will return to his previous role but will still have an involvement in the school and expects to be in the school on a weekly basis . The permanent Head Teacher post will be advertised by April. Mr Dewar thanked everyone for their support.
- Mr Palombo (Acting Faculty Head of English and Gaelic at Wallace High) joins as head of English and Modern languages faculty on 7th January.
- Kirsten Lyons commented on the split in the middle school (S3 BGE; S4 senior phase) leading to less continuity of teachers for pupils as they transitioned from 3rd to 4th year. It was noted that this can work in favour for some children but agreed that Miss Sturgeon will have a positive impact on this when she completes next year's timetables.
- Mr Dewar commented that unfortunately absences do happen and that the key driver is to ensure support for pupils in their certificate years.
- Elaine Gray commented that it was unacceptable for last year's 1st year pupils to have quite so many different English teachers during that year. Mrs Hollywood asked if the situation with changing teachers had improved this year. Elaine agreed that it had.
- Mr Dewar said that the problem with supply teachers is a national one.
- Mrs Dick confirmed that the sickness absences levels at Johnstone High are lower than other schools in the district. It was confirmed that staff are entitled to 6 months at full pay then 6 months at half pay when on sickness leave.

Resources Presentation – Mrs Dick

- There are currently 2 vacancies (0.5 in Geography and 0.3 in Technical)
- Additional finances for the school was discussed and it was explained that text books are a priority
- It was explained that pupils should not be required to purchase books
- Past papers can be made available via the school at a reduced rate
- Kirsten commented that nearly every subject supplied exam pupils with all the material they required prior to exams and they were very well supported
- The new dance studio is complete
- The music technology room is complete
- A new fashion and textiles room will enable pupils to take Higher level in fashion and fabrics
- A new laser cutter has been installed in technical
- New sink in the library
- The new foldaway tables for the assembly hall have been ordered and will hopefully arrive before Christmas
- There has been a deep clean of the school which has made a noticeable difference
- Plans have been agreed to renew school toilets from April 16
- £40K has been allocated to repairs inside and outside of the building and several building companies have been in to provide quotes for the work
- Quotes are being sourced for the remodelling of the ground floor – front foyer, garden area, painting and decorating

School Entrance Presentation - Graeme Johnston

Mrs Hollywood explained that Mr Johnstone has used his experience from running his own design company to produce a first draft proposal of what the school entrance could be upgraded to look like. Mr Johnston shared his presentation and designs which were well received by the Parent Council members.

Departmental Improvement Plans

Mrs Hollywood presented the improvement plan templates that are being used by each department. Each department has its own improvement plan with some items shared by all departments, based and targeted around the four whole school improvement areas: learning and teaching, raising attainment, self evaluation and curriculum development.

Pupil's access to printers

It was confirmed that if pupils had problems printing off their work then they should use their Glow email account or contact school office.

ACTION – school is to remind pupils of their Glow and Edmodo accounts and encourage them to use these to communicate with teachers.

Media & Communications

- Articles were run in the Paisley Gazette and the Gryffe Advertiser
- Hoping to run a journalism club
- Mrs Hollywood is aiming to make more use of the blog and Twitter page. Parent Council can also use this
- The Handbook and school calendar are now on line
- Plan to have a newsletter out for Christmas

Celebrating Pupil Achievements

Plans are being discussed to more effectively capture and celebrate pupil successes. A pro forma will be used at assemblies for pupils to capture in and out of school achievements, with a series of awards issued throughout a pupil's school career. This will not only celebrate success but also encourage pupils to sell themselves. SMT along with collegiate staff group plan to meet after Christmas to explore methods of capturing pupil extra- curricular activity and level of performance, and how this information can be used to introduce and implement a new coherent and consistent system of celebrating pupil success.

A.O.B.

School Clubs

It was agreed that a list of the various school clubs is published to parents and pupils.

ACTION School to inform parents and pupils of school clubs and include information on school website.

Posters have been printed for the school concert on Thursday 17th December.

Use of Library during lunch

The library is unsupervised at lunch (the school does not have a full time librarian) . Due to the value of equipment that is there, pupils cannot access the library unless it is supervised. The assembly hall is normally open and available for pupils when it is raining during breaks.

Councillor McMillan thanked the Parent Council for the work that has been done to help the image of the school and said that he was delighted about the progress.

Lorna Hendriks said that she seconded that and feels that everything is now being dealt with much more.

Diane added that the Parent Council seemed to be having good open discussions and was working well.

Mrs Hollywood made a plea for former pupils of Johnstone High to get in touch, to help the school commemorate the 50th anniversary of the existing building. A letter from Mr Munro with information and details of the anniversary celebrations was handed out. Mr Munro is looking to invite 50 ex-pupils, as guests of honour, representing each year the school has been open.

Diane thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Next Meeting Monday 25th January 2016.