

**Dalkeith High School Parent Council
AGM**

**Tuesday 8 September 2015
7pm DHS Conference Room**

Welcome: Caroline welcomed everybody to the meeting

Present: Caroline Pearson, Anne Murray, Allyson Dobson, Steve Kelly, Morag Ryan, Liz McGlashan, Marianne Flockhart, Julie Darling, Anne Williams, Jane Richardson and Deborah Slater

Apologies: Stephanie Heasman, Jacqui Fitzpatrick, Chantal Bruce and Bill McQueen

Notification of AOCB: Query about prom

Minutes from previous AGM: These were approved

Election of office bearers:

Chair: Caroline Pearson (Nominated by Deborah Slater, seconded by Anne Murray)

Secretary: Deborah Slater (Nominated by Steve Kelly, seconded by Anne Williams)

Treasurer: Anne Murray (Nominated by Deborah Slater, seconded by Morag Ryan)

An oversight of the AGM was that a PTA contact was not elected as an office bearer, this will be put on the agenda for the next Parent Council meeting

Chair's report: Caroline summarised some of the contributions to the school made by the Parent Council over the last year including participation in the appointment of our new Head Teacher and involvement in moving forward the stained glass project. Caroline endorsed the Parent Council as an efficient body doing useful work but also stressed the need for more members. A recruitment drive was suggested perhaps using events like the P7 Open Evening to actively promote the Parent Council. This will be added as an agenda item for the next meeting (**Action point: DS**)

Treasurer's Report: see attached submission from Anne. Much of the money raised during the Centenary year is still in the school account and needs to be drawn down into the PTA account. Allyson offered to liaise with the school office to resolve this.

Anne informed the Parent Council that Midlothian Council gave each school a budget, adjusted according to school role, to cover expenses incurred by the Parent Council. There was a short discussion on how this could be best utilised. Given the need to promote the Parent Council then it was suggested that one use would be to pay for a text to go out to all parents before each meeting. Allyson offered to find out how the school office could work with the Parent Council to utilise this budget. **Action point: AD plus DS to request the text before each meeting**

Head Teacher's Report: Allyson Dobson gave a report which included:

- Change of Head Teacher but business as usual
- Information about staff changes: retirements, appointments and NQTs plus new Acting Depute: Gail Preston

- Enhanced curriculum to engage those kids that are losing interest
- S1 are settling in, S2 have been engaged in outdoor learning, S6 doing university applications and have been involved in a new driver event
- Allyson keen to develop leadership at all levels including young teachers
- Successful Senior Awards Ceremony last week, moved to start of autumn term to allow the awards to be based on the actual results. Excellent Higher results part of an improving trend in Higher results. This year all departments have moved to the new Highers. S1 to S3 awards ceremony is tomorrow evening (Wed 9 Sept)
- Useful to look at the data analysis so Allyson will talk to the Parent Council about Insight at a future meeting (probably November)
- Allyson has been able to distribute a significant amount of extra resources to each department to buy text books, etc.
- Developing the young workforce (**DS to put on agenda for next meeting**). Scottish Government money is coming into schools to support this. DHS share will be approx £7000.
- Heads up that there will be an inspection fairly soon so the school needs to have QI procedures in place
- Focus on STEM

A query was raised about the appointment of a computing science teacher, Allyson responded

AOCB:

School prom: a concern was raised about the difficulty of booking a venue for the Prom when it is left to this point in the term to book a hotel. Allyson responded saying that there were plans to use an alternative venue to a hotel this year. She also said that there would be no difficulty booking a hotel on a Thu or Sun evening at this stage just a weekend. In future the plan is to appoint the Head Boy and Head Girl in the summer term, then House Captains can be appointed at the beginning of the autumn term so that work on the Prom can start earlier.

Lockers: the subject of lockers was raised again. Primarily the issue of how to allocate them fairly when there is such a limited number of them. Steve said he would get an update on that and bring it back to Parent Council **Action point SK**

Stained glass: Kate Henderson has started working with pupils on this and is coming in for a couple of periods each week. There will also be an opportunity for pupils to visit her studio.

Caroline thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting

Date of next meeting:

Dates of Parent Council meetings 2015/16

22 September 2015
 10 November 2015
 12 January 2016
 23 February 2016
 12 April 2016
 17 May 2016