

**Dalkeith High School Parent Council**  
**Tuesday 15 November 2016**

**Present:** Allyson Dobson (AD), Steve Kelly (SK), Marianne Flockhart, Anne Murray, Stuart McDonald, Nicola Johnson, Erin Thomson, John Archibald, Cath Stewart Deborah Slater

**Apologies:** Caroline Pearson, Carlyne Ross, Morag Ryan, Stephanie Heasman, Diane Hedlund, Pauline Dickson

**Welcome:** Chair welcomed everybody

**Approval of previous minutes**

**Notification of AOCB:**

**Presentation from Pupil Voice representatives re fundraising and use of funds:** the meeting welcomed Cath Stewart (Maths department) who is the teacher working with Pupil Voice plus John Archibald and Erin Thomson. John and Erin reported that pupils would like to have events that the whole family could attend such as:

- a bingo night
- talent show
- quiz night
- also a Christmas disco and / or Valentine disco for younger pupils
- the Events Committee suggested a Glitter Ball for younger pupils as the S5 & S6 pupils already have a ceilidh.

The spending priorities would be:

- a TV for the dining hall with DHS news and information displayed on it
- Christmas (and other holiday) celebrations – in particular the Pupil Voice would like to request funding from the PTA for a Christmas tree and other decorations for this year
- other suggestions included new iPads, benches in all the blocks and fun days to reward pupil success

The PTA agreed to fund Christmas decorations although it was suggested that it might be possible to procure a Christmas tree for free from Dobbies or another local business. AD to investigate. There will be a fundraising “wear a Christmas jumper or tie” day on the last day of term to fund the decorations in retrospect.

The Pupil Voice and PTA will work together on fundraising activities.

**Governance Review** – Allyson explained that this is a review of how schools are managed with a view to achieving excellence and equity in education. Although some control has already been devolved, there is a question of whether more flexibility and autonomy should be given to Head Teachers and whether decisions are best made at a local level. Allyson handed out a Scottish Government document providing more information and links to the surveys that parents are invited to fill in so that they can provide their input.

The Scottish Government document and link to the survey can be found here and is open until 6 January:

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/empowering-schools/a-governance-review>

There will also be an information evening to launch the Midlothian Council consultation survey on Mon 21 November at Lasswade High School (Conference Room) to which all Midlothian Parent Council Chairs are invited.

The Midlothian survey is open until Wed 30 November:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/reviewgovernance>

There was a discussion about how to get these surveys out to as many parents as possible through the school app, website, social media, etc. It was also suggested that the school has iPads out at forthcoming parents evenings so parents can fill it in while waiting for appointments.

**PTA: charitable status:** Nicola has been looking into this since the last meeting. Several advantages to it such as being able to claim gift aid, run raffles, etc. Need three trustees plus a constitution but can base this on one that has already been drafted. Nicola (PTA) and Allyson (HT) and one person from the Parent Council (ideally the Chair) would be the trustees. Nicola happy to organise this once trustees agreed. *CP has agreed to be the third trustee.*

**Vision for DHS:** The school has a motto and clear school values but it also needs a vision, at the moment the vision is implicit but needs to be made explicit. The pupils and staff have already had an input and now the parents views are being sought. In the meeting the parents were asked to consider what our school community could be like if we had the power to make it any way we wanted for the pupils, for the staff and for parents / carers. This was then distilled into an overall vision statement that captured the group's vision for the school. SK took note of all the views and will collate them.

The meeting was closed.

#### **Parent Council meeting dates 2017:**

17 Jan 2017  
28 Feb 2017  
18 April 2017  
23 May 2017