

## **Dalkeith High School Parent Council**

**Tuesday 28 February 2017**

**Present:** Allyson Dobson (AD), Steve Kelly (SK), Caroline Pearson (CP), Morag Ryan (MR), Cath Stewart (CS), Julie Darling (JD), Chantal Bruce (CB), Lorna Ellis (LE), Phil Bowen (PB), Nicola Johnson (NJ), Stuart McDonald (SM), Pauline Dickson (PD), Diane Hedlund (DH)

**Apologies:** Deborah Slater, Stephanie Heasman, Marianne Flockhart, Carolyne Ross

**Welcome:** Caroline Pearson (Chair) welcomed everyone

**Approval of previous minutes:** Approved

### **PTA Update:**

DH explained how the PTA have been hard at work with fundraising and ideas for forthcoming events. Plea was made for help with bag packing at B&M Fort Kinnaird this weekend. All details on new DHS PTA & PTC Facebook page. £143 was raised by a tombola (4 S1 pupils). Plans to send out 5 raffle tickets with accompanying letter to each pupil in the hope of selling (some great prizes to be won so far and more to come).

**Action:** CP to speak to Colin Beattie about donating bottle of Scottish Parliament whiskey.

Look out for 100 Club coming soon and planned Lip Sync Battle night between teachers/pupils.

McQueen Legal will make donation to school after certain transactions have gone through for services used. Just need to sign up for this if you use their services.

Check out and Like the new DHS Parent Council/PTA Facebook page for all details of roles & responsibilities including all fund raising info to date. There have been some amazing amounts of money raised recently. Well done guys. There is also info re the use of McQueen Legal services and the document required to claim the donation.

### **Pupil Equity Funding**

AD explained how some extra money will be coming direct to all Head Teachers. The amount is based on the number of pupils in S1/2/3 entitled to free meals. For DHS this means an amount of just short of £70k. The school community will decide how this money is to be spent. This will be one of the focuses of staff at the In Service day at beginning of May.

### **School Dress Code**

Definite improvements have been made and school is moving in right direction.

Clarification and decisions still need to be made regarding blazers, footwear and shirt and tie (as opposed to polo shirts). Thoughts are that BGE (S1/2/3) should no longer be allowed to wear polo shirts with shirt and tie being the norm all round. S6 pupils are wearing blazers but should it be all senior phase or indeed whole school?

**Action:** CS to discuss these issues with Pupil Voice to get feedback before Easter holidays so that timely letters can be issued to parents/guardians with any changes.

### **Parent Rep for Upcoming Depute Interviews**

Gail Preston is acting Depute but this role needs to be filled permanently. The school wants to maintain four Deputes for the four houses. Closing date for applicants is 6th March. Long leet interviews will be held Mon 13th March with the short leet planned for Mon 27th March. The school would like two parents plus Caroline Pearson to be on the panel at these interviews. Please get in touch with Deborah Slater if you are interested and further info can be given.

### **Head Teacher Update**

Allyson gave a short PowerPoint presentation on Insight. This is a system which is used to record attainment figures for all schools across Midlothian and is based on recently published national benchmarks (exit qualifications).

Helping our young people achieve positive destinations when they leave school is a key priority. The stats on Insight help us see how DHS pupils are progressing.

In short the figures show that our highest attainers are outperforming, our middle 60% are doing better than average, whilst our lowest 20% show room for improvement.

Basically our school attainment figures look good in comparison.

### **AOB**

The PTA members asked who was responsible for the school App. Answer is Joyce Bain

It was also asked if the 6th years wear 'Leavers' hoodies. They do and can currently be seen around the school.

The meeting was closed.

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

18 April 2017

23 May 2017