

Dalkeith High Parent Council & PTA Meeting Minutes



DATE: Monday 9 November 2022

Attendees

Cara Chambers - PC Chair
Emma Ormerod - DHS Head Teacher

Diane Ward - PC Secretary

Diane Hedlund - Treasurer

Sara McDermott – PT guidance

Parents/Carers x 8 attended representing S1, S2, S4, S5 & S6

Apologies

Gail Currie MLC Parent & Learner Liaison Officer

Previous Minutes

Actions from previous minutes

Action	owner	update	Carried over	Action Complete Date
Dates for EO introductory sessions for Junior & Senior year parents	EO	EO to confirm by next PC in Jan 23	Carried over to Jan 23	
OM to present more on DHS attainment at next PC meeting	EO			9 Nov
Recruiting of new DH	EO			9 Nov

Work Experience	EO	feedback PC input to staff and issue an update on timings, support for pupils, process how staggered missed lessons would be managed	Update required Jan 23	
Prelims Dates	EO	All issued		Nov 22
Parent evenings survey – done	EO			Nov 22
Tracking & report –	EO	Seniors have had 2 reports – ongoing programme		Nov 22
SMH –	EO	Need more info/input from council on MLC preferred tool – looks to be Google Classroom	Further update required	
Discipline –	EO	Improvements seen	check in updates ongoing at PC	
Study clubs	EO	comms been issued		Nov 22
Toilets	EO	No complaints have been raised since last PC. Main toilets are open at break & lunchtimes. Getting cleared by SLT at end of breaks		Nov 22
S6 common room space	EO	Not due to lack of space in school		Nov 22
Parental involvement in extracurricular activities	CC	PC to put something out on FB page if EO has any special requests	ongoing	ongoing
Buses –	EO/	no update – new transport team now in place that are looking into transport for schools	ongoing	ongoing

Actions from this meeting

Topic	owner	Action	Date
Staffing vacanciesAction	EO	more updater on this to follow	EO to confirm
Breakfast club	SM	Kellogs offering 1000 toward breakfast club – SM to look into	ASAP
CC & DW to arrange a call with Gail Currie	CC		By end Jan 23
State of school IT infrastructure and update to equipment such as musical instruments	EO CC DW	CC tro draft a letter to can MLC councillors to fight for action. EO to investigate state of musical instruments at HT meeting with other MLC schools Can PC/PTA fund raising help? Once funds issue known for instruments DW to help look into resources to help with any repairs	Update at Jan PC
Parents need clarity of who they can contact about which topic, how and expectations of a process.	EO	Action for EO to update website	ASAP
Next PC topic focus to be coursing & tracking	EO		Jan 23 PC

HT update – Emma Ormerod

1. Staffing

- Pupil care & Welfare officer – new infrastructure being worked on -
- New DH pupil support – starts 4 Jan, 10 years exp in pupil support (PE 7 yrs)

- 2 new learning support assistants (+ 1 more to fill)
- IT & Business positions to be filled

More updates to follow

2. School captains

Regular meetings with EO

Will have an update in the Weekly Bulletin every fortnight

Fed back on two areas of concern:

- Coursing – options
- Preparation for prelims – feeling of being under prepared. Seniors having sessions for study skills next week

3. Quality Improvement visit – areas covered during this session:

- Integrated pupil support team
- Attainment focus – continued & drive
- Course choice & pathways – Traditional & Non-traditional – what they mean
- Self-evaluation model

Presentation from Sara McDermott – PT guidance

Presentation given on 'Creating equity beyond the classroom'

- Closing the disadvantage gap
- The issues
- Breakfast club – at least 30 a day. Staff support this on a rota. Soft start and engagement. Porridge, cereal & fruit at present. Looking to expand the choice.
 - Free for all pupils
 - Local shops supporting

Feedback from PC : Kellogs offering 1000 toward breakfast club – SM to look into

- In house hub being creating 'The essential' – being brought in to access resources to support wellbeing...
 - Hygiene products (deodorant, makeup, wipes, shower gel, face wash, sanitary

- Clothing – winter jacket appeal, socks, underwear, Hats, Gloves
 - School uniform, Hoodies, Jumpers, trousers, Bags
 - Prom Boutique – Formal wear
- Care is a strategy for raising attainment
 - Christmas present appeal for our school community
Staff have donated to this in the past

Nest steps include:

- Comms coming out for donations
 - Twitter
 - Next bulletin
 - PC FB page
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- Was announced at 3rd year Parent/carer evening
 - Want families to be able to engage and allow them to come in
 - Want to open by the end of the month.
 - In youth work-room
 - Re-use & sustainability message
 - Open to whole school
 - Donations welcome

Comments:

- The community Pantry was mentioned they may have some resources they
- 1 Dalkeith should be something school can link up to in the future.
- Smalls for all

Continued update by EO

How non-equitable DHS IT infrastructure as so poor.

- Appears to be the have the worst provision across the authority.
 - Only 10 smartboards were currently operational.
 - Support of our school is really lacking.
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- EO has completed a full audit.
 - Brought to the highest attention & would value support.

- Is this something the PC can raise up to council?
CC to draft a letter to councillors to fight for action

School is really lacking and needs updating.

Instruments – equity across learning estates or just DHS?

Update on latest insights Data & Attainment - EO

Presentation by EO

Update in Sept weekend post exam results and every Feb with national benchmarks

The following notes provide some information of what was covered, and at a high level (as there was a lot covered)

- We compare the school to the VC = virtual comparator – made up of pupils from across Scotland who have similar characteristics
- Data can be presented in different ways & Daily mail presented data which did not create a fair comparison. Emma presented a meaningful representation
- S4, S5 & s6 data shown.
- Shows a lot of variances, some areas of concern, some positives (s5 & s6)

EO confirmed this needs more investigation and a priority for her. Ongoing updates will be given.

Benchmarks & Targets

- EO has set benchmarks which has never been done at DHS before.
- Teachers are being made accountable for what is on tracking reports.
- Based on a 5 year trend and a plan to improve year on year
- A lot to be fixed
- So much aspiration from staff to see pupils to do well.

Q: How do we raise attainment in the school?

EO continued to help answer this vital question...

- Leavers at end of s4 – program coming in end of Nov for intervention

- All S5s sitting 5 or more higher getting a mentor will get meetings with mentor & parents

EO confirmed there is a lot of work to be done.

At this point there was a lot of conversations which proved there is a lot of questions and lacking clarity.

Common themes of frustrations and true reflection of feedback coming to parents.

System has a lot of limitations.

Homework is a common theme of concern and missing and why reported as problems but not being raised ahead or tracking reports.

Parents need clarity of who they can contact about which topic, how and expectations of a process.

- EO advised PTs have access to a text/phone system that could be getting utilised. And a pilot is being planned.

Action for EO to update website.

Curriculum coursing - Why only 6 NAT 5s? 6 in S4 & 6 in S5

- *Goes from super broad in junior years and comes into so narrow in S4 – S6*
- *Crashing Highers to fill timetables. Why doing 6 in 5th year*

*EO: Needs to be the right course which you start & finish
More to come on this.*

Tracking reports – no comments to support results or next actions/pathways

Could we have more open nights?

EO confirmed 'working time directive an issue to support more out of school our activity'

Communications – not clear and different levels communications from differing teachers in same departments. Can core information come from Dept head and come to all parents?

Next PC topic focus to be coursing & tracking

EO continued...

- **Lunchtimes** – looking to possible extend lunchtime to enable extracurricular activities.
- Menu is going to be increased with new ideas.

Update from PC Chair – Cara Chambers

As Gail Currie was not able to attend, CC covered:

- Background of her role
- Groups of Midlothian PC chairs at a presentation last year
- Main role is to improve liaison & interaction between school & parents
- Figure out resources
- Help guide us to make the most of our PC meetings
- Areas parents can get involved in (shared via newsletter)

CC will share any relevant details/events/opportunities on FB
& will give updates when available

We will see if CC & DW can get a call since Gail was not in attendance

Fund raising

- PC – post on FB
- Senior football team need strips – look at outside sponsorship.

Next PC: 12 Jan 2023

Thanks & Close