

Dalkeith High School Parent Partnership Minutes of Meeting

Date: Monday 24 May 2024

Attendees:

Ed Jupp (Co-Chair), Helen Beasley (Co-Chair), Joanne Arneil (Secretary), Julia Critchley (Treasurer), Steven Illingworth (Acting Headteacher), Laura Sanders, Laura Diamond, Karlyn Durrant, Zoe Orr, Hannah Clark and Leanne Banks.

Apologies:

Margot Russell

1. Approval of previous minutes - Laura Diamond and Hannah Clark.
2. **Dalkeith High School Parent Partnership Chairperson's Report 24th June 2024**

Firstly, Ed and Helen would like to thank the parents and families that have supported not only the Parent Partnership but Dalkeith High School as well through various events, meetings and fundraising activities held across the year. With this being our first year in post we have enjoyed a busy yet fulfilling time with the Parent Partnership.

This year the Parent Partnership has worked with Dalkeith High School in raising awareness of the requirement to upgrade some facilities within the school. We have, and continue to, liaise with Councillors to press our and our young people's concerns over facilities which require modernisation and will continue to pursue this need over the next academic year.

We have also raised concerns over the increasing school roll and will continue to ensure the Council are fully aware of the impact on students attainment from a school which will breach capacity imminently. We are committed to ensuring that our parent voice is heard at Capital Planning meetings.

Our Treasurer is setting up a new fundraising sub-committee to support activities to raise funds for a variety of school purposes. If you have a skill or passion for this please get in touch!

Next academic year we will continue to work with Dalkeith High School on items raised above and also to:

- clarify concerns over the senior phase curriculum offering
- support the communication between Dalkeith High School and the young people
- issuing a parent questionnaire to gain insight into views and opinions of our wider community

Finally, Ed and Helen would like to wish all our families a happy and restful summer break and hope to see you at our first meeting of the new school year.

Ed and Helen

3. Treasurer Report

JC was able to access the account from December 2023 and there had been no activity in the account since November 2022.

Dalkeith High School Parent Partnership - Account Summary
Period: 1st July 2023 - 30th June 2024

Opening balance on 1/7/2023 = £ 658.27

Total Income this period = £281.68

Breakdown:

January £48.30 (float return from Cara Chambers previous chair)

April £21 (from selling refreshments at Brass/woodwind concert)

June £137 (cash from selling refreshments at prize giving)

June £35.38 (via card from selling refreshments (2% taken))

June £40 (from selling raffle tickets at Grease)

Total outgoings this period = £210.65

Breakdown:

May £56 (reimburse L Saunders for maternity gift for E Omerod)

June £154.65 (reimburse L Saunders for Costco refreshments)

Difference = £281.68 - £210.65 = £71.03

Closing balance at 22/6/2024 = £739.30

In bank account = £702.30

In float = £27

Plus £10 and a half filled 20 team football card (scratch the card and DHS PP keeps £10)

Additionally large quantity of cans of juice, crisps and chocolate in school office - approx £100

JC has asked for people to join a fundraising group. JC will ask Dandara and Keir Constructions for sponsorship. KD will look out a previous letter and share with JC.

JC to purchase a sumup machine as this was useful at the Awards Ceremony.

LS to get a quote for a banner to advertise PP fundraising table. Tie in with an Art Dept competition to design the banner.

Look to put an events calendar together for the start of session to avoid the issues of this year and asking people to volunteer last minute.

LB suggested contacting the Community Benefit Officer in Midlothian Council to find outstanding contracts to donate money.

4. Election of new officer bearers: Nobody came forward to take on any role for session 24/25. EJ and HB proposed by LS and LD and seconded by KD for Co Chairs. JA proposed by ZO and seconded by LD for Secretary and JC proposed by EJ and seconded by HC for Treasurer.

5. Head Teacher Update

SI had a two week handover with EO. Update on the toilet situation. Both DHS and St David's asked for a pupil survey by the council with a very tight turnaround. 84% of pupils say they don't use the main toilet block as it's intimidating and don't go in due to vaping. SI has witnessed pupils queuing to use the single use toilets. Survey asked questions on what they would like the toilets to look like and which options they would prefer. Option A- floor to ceiling doored cubicles with sinks in each cubicle. Option B - same doors but shared sinks. Option C- renovate what currently exists. Options A&B most popular. Margot Russell shared the following email response from Steven Small, PPP Services Manager, regarding the toilets:

Myself, Derek Oliver, Ross Irvine and BAM FM met with both schools, represented by Craig Knight and Donny Macdonald on the 22nd of May to determine the preferred solution from Dalkeith High School and St. David's High School to improve toilets.

Both schools were of the opinion that the urinals should be removed entirely and that all wc cubicles should be full height – floor to ceiling. The schools also wanted structural changes, that is, remove walls and doors to make the boys and girls toilets open plan and that CCTV should be installed covering the open plan wash hand basin area.

We explained that developer contribution funds could not be used for this proposal as it does not increase the amount of toilets/increase the number of pupils. A Capital funding bid would have to be made for this proposal.

The schools have been asked to prepare a report outlining the need for the change, including consultation and feedback from pupils. The schools have also been asked to carry out a DPIA (Data Protection Impact Assessment) to cover the open plan toilets and the CCTV.

We await the report and DPIA from the schools.

In the meantime there will be work carried out in the toilets over the summer holidays. The ceiling tiles will be removed and replaced with solid plasterboard ceilings – this is to help reduce vandalism and deter pupil removing ceiling tiles and climbing up to the ceiling void.

SI to chase vape alarm quotation from BAM.

Positive behaviour in the school - desire to revisit values, expectations and consequences. New policy launched last August, SI meeting with Senior Leadership Team (SLT) 25/6/24 to discuss streamlining and relaunching it to staff, pupils and parent/carers in August. KD commented that staff need knowledge on pupil trauma and what's causing problems with behaviour in class and why some pupils are wandering corridors during lessons. SI said two outside speakers were coming to talk to staff in August about trauma in children. ZO feels that DHS needs to do work on CIRCLE framework and that Midlothian is behind on this. [CIRCLE INFORMATION](#) (CLICK THIS LINK FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WHAT THIS IS). KD feels that work needs to be done with staff about what neurodiversity looks like especially on dyslexia.

SI informed us that the INSET day staff will work on expectations, needs and behaviour management. Kate Jones, an author and speaker on learning and teaching, is giving a talk to staff.

6. Meeting dates for next year all at 7pm, venue TBC as KD suggested holding one at Danderhall Primary to engage with those parents:

Monday 2 September

Wednesday 6 November

Monday 3 February

Wednesday 2 April

Monday 2 June AGM

7. AOCB

Emma O'Connell is finalising the bullying policy. Midlothian Council is producing their own policy and EO'C to read it and see if it aligns with DHS policy. Launched to staff in August. 92 parent/carers completed the survey she sent out with the following results:

A key summary of the parental feedback:

- 55% believe that verbal abuse is the most common form of bullying at DHS.
- 58% believe they know how to report bullying incidents at DHS.
- 65% believe that it would be beneficial for DHS to provide links to resources to help support their children with bullying issues.

Issue of the tannoy system was brought up and how it can't be heard in PE and it's not the best way of communicating to pupils. SI suggested a set time for it to be used. Looking to communicate with pupils via an email/google classroom briefing.

LB brought up P7 transition day transportation and how those pupils who would be eligible for school transport didn't receive any on transition days if from Woodburn or King's Park. She'd like the council to look at that for next year. Public buses don't run at appropriate times. SI will ask EO'C about it. HB commented that the school bus timetable has changed and the buses are now late, as picking up St David's pupils. SI also says some buses are getting to school too early, by 7.50am.

AO'C was not at the meeting but she sent a message asking for the issue of the Battery Storage Scheme to be brought up at the next meeting, based on the explosion that happened in Paisley and objects to Midlothian Council's plans due to the proximity to schools, housing, recreation and toxicity of fumes.

8. Date of next meeting - Monday 2 September 7pm, Art Department.