

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

### **Dalkeith High School Parent Partnership**

Location: Art Department  
Date: Tuesday 3 June 2025  
Time: 7pm-9.25pm

Attendees: Helen Beasley (Co-Chair), Ed Jupp (Co-Chair) Joanne Arneil (Secretary), Julia Critchley (Treasurer), Karlyn Durrant, Heather Lovatt, Laura Diamond, Warren Scott, Aiobhe O'Callahan, Laura Saunders, Leanne Banks, Karen Chojnowska, Moira Nelson, Susan Burrell, Kirstie Cooper.

Apologies: Zoe Orr

#### **1. Approval of previous minutes - LD and HL**

#### **2. Treasurer update**

Balance of £691.94. Julia has re-written the constitution to be OSCR charity registered. Application submitted and waiting to hear back.

#### **3. Headteacher update**

New posts for session 25/26 - Maths x2, Art x 1, 5NQTs (Biology, English x 2, History and Modern Studies. Still to appoint maternity cover for Rachel Waterhouse, Pupil Support Leader for Lothian. There will be someone appointed as Midlothian Maths teacher , permanent to the council but with DHS for next session.

Proposal in consultation phase to amalgamate and change the faculties. Social subjects - Geography, Mods, History and RME. Take Business Education out and put them with Modern Languages and 2 new PT posts. No staff member will lose their job. The NQTs are replacing staff and not expanding departments.

Polar Academy: video created by pupils will be posted on the school website shortly.

Draft School Improvement Plan was discussed looking at the following key areas:

1. Self-evaluation: structures for pupils, parents/carers and staff
2. Leadership of change: professional learning for staff and redevelop school vision and values
3. Curriculum: look at S3 curriculum progression
4. Learning, Teaching and Assessment: develop learner logs as a trial with S1 to keep track of conversations, practitioner enquiry. Guardian summaries now live on Google Classroom and more communication is coming.

5. Raising attainment and achievement: track, monitor and moderation of data S1-3.
6. Enquiry, Wellbeing, Inclusion and Equality: track and analyse interventions within a small S3 cohort.

Tracking reports were raised and felt the word “inconsistent” needed to change. AO’C feels the school doesn’t deliver from an ASN approach.

EO: Inclusive practice will take place under practitioner enquiry, looking at the Circle Framework. Mandatory training takes place during InService days and twilight voluntary sessions offered.

KD: ASN kids have no warning given over new timetables being given out.

EO: will look at the timeline for timetables being issued. Timetabling is a complicated and lengthy process that can’t be sped up.

Uniform was raised by a parent. DHS dress code policy does meet the aims of the Scottish Government GUIDANCE document as the option to wear non-DHS badge jumpers is there. Communication will go out about reminding pupils to come to school dressed appropriately and not in crop tops. Willing to allow THICK leggings and joggers as part of the uniform.

#### **4. Facilities Update**

After many attempts for clarification, the Council say they are waiting for the outcome of a capital funding bid and further clarity on the gender reform toilet situation. Midlothian Council reviewing all toilets across the estate.

#### **5. Senior Phase Coursing**

At a Parent Council Chairs meeting Helen requested that a review of the Midlothian Aligned Curriculum Offering (MACO) take place to ensure equitable offering of courses and subjects across Midlothian but was told this was not planned. Neil Craik-Collins is the Quality Improvement Manager responsible for this and will be invited to attend our Parent Partnership meeting in September.

#### **6. AOB**

KD brought up the transport issue again from Eskbank/Newbattle for the new S1s after the recent P7 info evening. EO said it’s a whole new transport team that are in place and responsible for this.

Senior phase commitment raised as a parent has voiced their intention not to sign it on social media. It’s a commitment to try and improve standards, expectations and attendance of S5&6 pupils. EO has said she will look at the wording of it for next session.

## **7. Election of new office bearers**

Helen stood again as co-chair and nominated by EJ and JC, seconded by LD  
Julia stood again as treasurer, nominated by LS and HL, seconded by JA  
Karlyn put herself forward for co-chair, nominated by AO'C and seconded by LB.

Nobody came forward to be secretary.

## **8. Dates and general themes of meetings for next year**

16th September 2025 - MACO

18th November 2025 - HWB: attendance

2nd February 2026 - BGE Moderation/attainment

5th May 2026 - Learning Teaching & Assessment

9th June 2026 - AGM