

Dalkeith High School Parent Council Meeting

**Tuesday 26 September 2017
7pm DHS Art Department**

Present: Caroline Pearson (CP), Allyson Dobson (AD), Gail Peston (GP), Julie Hunter (JH), Nicola Johnson (NJ), Alison Binns (AB), Pauline Dickson (PD), Julie Daring (JD), Mary Macleod (MM), Eilidh Gordon (EG), Diane Hedlund (DH), Gulfiden Eren (GE), Marianne Flockhart (MH), Phil Bowen (PB), Pupil Voice Rachel Eddie and Beth MacDonald

Apologies: Sheila Macalone

Welcome: Caroline welcomed everybody to the meeting especially the S1 parents

Notification of AOCB: Communications

Minutes from previous meeting: These were approved

PTA Update:

DH did a sponsored walk across the new Forth Road Bridge and raised £500. DH said that the PTA now has approximately £5,000 in it's funds and that the vast majority of funds have been raised in the last 12 months.

As chair, CP, warmly thanked DH, NJ and PD for all their efforts in driving forward the fund raising over the past year.

NJ reported that the outside Bench funding has been fully approved from Tesco Bags for Life.

AD said that she is investigating the purchase and installation of a new TV in the school which will be used for displaying notices.

The PTA bank account is in the process of being switched over so that DH is treasurer.

NJ said that the PTA have a WhatsApp group in which they discuss and organise PTA events and that others are welcome to join. AB expressed an interest in joining.

Head Teacher Update

A short update from AD as she had provided a in depth update at the AGM two weeks previously.

AD said that the new S1 year group were settling in well which she was pleased about as they are a big year group. Lunch clubs are up and running for which she is very appreciative of teacher's efforts and that the groups are inclusive of all and give a good range of topics/interests.

School of Rock has been announced as the school show this year. 130+ pupils, covering

S1 to S6, came along to the first session.

At the November meeting AD will present on Insight – which is the performance tool used by school. Last year's session was very useful.

Pupil Voice

Two pupils from the Pupil Voice, Rachel Eddie and Beth MacDonald, attended the meeting to give an overview of Pupil Voice and provide input into the discussion as to what the PTA money should be spent on.

GP explained that the way Pupil Voice meetings are conducted has been changed. Previously pupils volunteered to attend but this has now been changed so that a random selection of pupils are chosen for each meeting. The meeting is led by the pupils with a teacher being present for guidance when required.

The Pupil Voice then presented on the pupils' ideas for what the PTA money should be spent on.

The three main items are

- New PE Equipment
 - o **Action DH** to investigate if the PTA can apply more funding through Tesco for new PE Equipment
 - o **Action Pupil Voice** to investigate and detail what PE equipment is needed
- An outdoor sheltered area
 - o **Action AD** to investigate with BAM (Facilities Management company for DHS) what can be done to accommodate an outdoor sheltered area.
- Water fountains to fill bottles
 - o **Action AD** to investigate with BAM options for water fountains to fill bottles.

Other items discussed were

- Lockers.
 - o These are thought to be too expensive and it was felt to be unrealistic to find space in the school for 800+ lockers. AD said she would consider what could be done to accommodate lockers. **Action AD**
- Common Room
 - o DHS used to have a common room for older pupils but there had been issues around it's use and the lack of care of it by the pupils. Therefore, previous head teacher Colin Gerrie had closed it. AD said that now senior pupils never have non-timetabled time so there is no need for one, also the group that would have used it is now over 100 and so there is lack of space for it. AD also said that most schools no longer have a common room.
- Dalkeith Rotary Club funding.
 - o The Rotary club has donated £500 to the school for use the inclusion of all pupils. AD intends to use this money to support pupils for whom funding activities is an issue. AD is also keen that transport home does not become a barrier for pupils to attend after school clubs, such as the school show rehearsals.
- Gathering information on S1 to S3 out of school activities
 - o GP said that she is leading an exercise in gathering information on which pupils are involved in out of school activities. The main aim is to spot those pupils who are not involved and identifying the reasons why, perhaps as they

are carers for relatives or funding is an issue.

Christmas Tree

There was discussion around supplying a Christmas Tree to the school. The majority of parents at the meeting were unaware that the school already place a Christmas Tree in the school. The PTA to look into getting a second Christmas Tree to place in a more prominent position, for example dining area or assembly hall. **Action NJ/DH**

Children's University

Teacher Andrew Jack used to run the Children's University for DHS. AD is looking for a teacher to take this on again.

Article for Newsletter

DH is to write an article for the upcoming school newsletter

AOCB - Communication

NJ asked why the school app was no longer used. AD confirmed that it had been decided to stop using it in the summer when it's maintenance contract came up for renewal. AD is looking at replacement app Milk/Show My Homework.

NJ asked PB to explain about the School Pigeon app that King's Park is shortly to roll-out, initially to Primary 1. PB explained that School Pigeon is a replacement for the school test messages and to move King's Park towards being paperless (as near as possible). PB said it is conservatively estimated to save King's Park at least £2,000 per year. AD said that she had already spoken to PB about School Pigeon and is monitoring the situation at King's Park.

PB suggested that DHS follow King's Park and have the school tweets automatically appear on the Parent Council Facebook page. This enables parents who are not on twitter but are on Facebook to see the Tweets. It also means the school does not need to be on Facebook and thus avoid negative sides of this type of Social Media. It also PB said that these had proven to be very popular with parents at King's Park. The meeting decided that this would be good for DHS. **Action PB** to speak with Joyce Bain (DHS Twitter person) to enable school tweets to be posted onto PC/PTA Facebook page.

AOCB – P7 Open evening

This is to take place on Thursday 9th November and there is to be some PC/PTA representation at it.

Dates of Parent Council meetings 2017/18:

14 November 2017

16 January 2018

27 February 2018

24 April 2018

29 May 2018

Summary of Actions

Action Num.	Action	Owner	Date Raised	Review Date
2017-001	Investigate if the PTA can apply more funding through Tesco for new PE Equipment	Diane Hedlund	26/09/17	14/11/17
2017-002	Pupil Voice to investigate and detail what PE equipment is needed	Pupil Voice /Gail Preston	26/09/17	14/11/17
2017-003	Investigate with BAM (Facilities Management company for DHS) what can be done to accommodate an outdoor sheltered area	Allyson Dobson	26/09/17	14/11/17
2017-004	Investigate with BAM options for water fountains to fill bottles	Allyson Dobson	26/09/17	14/11/17
2017-005	Consider what could be done to accommodate lockers.	Allyson Dobson	26/09/17	14/11/17
2017-006	The PTA to look into getting a second Christmas Tree to place in a more prominent position, for example dining area or assembly hall	Diane Hedlund/ Nicola Johnson	26/09/17	14/11/17
2017-007	Speak with Joyce Bain (DHS Twitter person) to enable school tweets to be posted onto PC/PTA Facebook page.	Phil Bowen	26/09/17	14/11/17