

Dalziel High School Parent Teachers' Association

Minutes of Meeting at Dalziel High School

Monday 14th January 2013 at 7:30pm

Present – Liz Cunningham, John Hinton, Jacqui Agnew, Jaclyn Lennon, Pamela Crombie, Elaine Hamilton, Elaine Dougan, Robert Knox, Wendy Hall, Elaine Spreckley, Margaret McKendrick, Aurdrey Graham, Caroline Wilson, Cheryl Percy, Anne-Marie Gray, Janette Watson, Jacqueline Friel, Lesley Wales, Robert Birch, Evelyn Dickson

Apologies – Margaret Pollock, Julie McLeod, Fiona McKinnon, Patti Owens, Lesley Crawford

Chairman's Remarks – In Margaret's absence, Evelyn opened the meeting at 7.30

Committee – At the meeting in November 2012, two amendments to the committee were proposed following the resignation of Fiona Hannah as treasurer. These amendments were Julie McLeod current vice chair to become treasurer and Liz Cunningham committee member to become vice chair. Julie's appointment was proposed by John Hinton and seconded by Liz Cunningham; Liz's appointment was proposed by John Hinton and seconded by Wendy Hall. Julie and Liz were duly appointed unanimously.

Liz then chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Minutes – Minutes of the meeting on Monday 12 November 2012 were approved

Christmas Raffle – Liz reported that the net profit from the raffle – after printing costs and prizes were deducted – was £1,002.92 – a significant increase from £424.94 in 2011 and £106.12 in 2010. The increase in ticket price appeared to have no effect on the quantity of tickets sold but resulted in a higher profit.

Treasurer's Report – Julie McLeod had prepared a report but was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. Evelyn issued the report and highlighted the main points:

- PTA currently has £466.71 in the bank although this will rise to £1,673.41 when all of the raffle proceeds are received from the school.
- Known expenditure is £20 for the renewal of the gambling licence for the raffle and £62 for the PTA membership of SPTC which includes PTA insurance.
- This leaves a balance of £1,593.41. The PTA is a non-profit making organisation and our aim is to support the school. The committee proposed that the majority of these funds be spent in the following ways:
 1. Purchase of hot jugs and a tea pot to assist with future fundraising events such as sale of teas and coffees at spring concert, school show etc – up to a maximum of £200
 2. Donation of £150 per house towards Choral Shield costs (£450)
 3. Donation to school of £900 – to be spent on items proposed by school. Robert Birch suggested that, as the Parent Council had made a donation to the Pupil Council, the PTA donation could be deposited in the minibus fund.

These three expenditure items were approved, leaving the PTA with a balance of around £43.

School Matters – Robert advised the following:

1. Staffing - We now have Des Reilly covering in Chemistry for Katie Toner's maternity leave and we are fully staffed.
2. Christmas arrangements went very well, Christmas Ceilidhs , Church Service and Carol Concert. The PTA raffle was very successful and all winners are listed on our website.
3. The painting The Galleon is now returned to the school Assembly Hall and pupils have been informed of the history of the painting at their assemblies.
4. S3 Prelims went well in December. Prelims for S5/6 (some S4) start at the end of January.
5. Customer Service Excellence Award. We have been informed that we passed every category with NO partial compliances and we have now achieved Compliance PLUS in five areas. The PTA congratulated everyone associated with this award.
6. Business Education room 1 has been refurbished. One of the art rooms is next on the programme.
7. We are investigating the possibility of moving to a 33 period week. This has been discussed by staff, the Parent Council and now at PTA. We see this as providing the best opportunity to provide the best possible curriculum (particularly in the upper school where 33 periods would allow 6 periods per subject for five subjects and still have three periods for core PE/RE/Social Education although it has advantages for the lower school too). This would result in a different time for school to end and also raises the question about retaining the afternoon interval.

Although this is one of the cost cutting measures under discussion by NLC, the proposal is being considered at Dalziel for school planning reasons. Reverting to a one year higher, creates a subject imbalance in the upper school – 27 periods to be split between 5 subjects. It also creates timetabling problems for the weekly S4 work experience programme.

After concerns raised by parents about early school finish on a Friday, Robert explained that the school's proposal would be for longer days on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday and slightly earlier finishes (ie 3pm) on Tuesday and Thursday. The advantages of this would be to provide time for after school clubs on the Tues/Thurs and avoid difficulties caused by lunchtime closure on a Friday.

The council's decision on this option is awaited but the school are continuing to explore the proposal with a view to implementing it in the new academic year in 2013/2014 subject to approval of staff, parents etc.

8. Pupils in Modern Studies are running a referendum on Scottish independence and Frank Roy MP visited the school today. For and against arguments have been put to pupils at assemblies and all pupils will have the opportunity to vote.
9. Easter School for S5/6 pupils is running from Tue 2nd April to Friday 5th April more details from Mrs Agnew.
10. Following the letter received from Trutex which was discussed at our last meeting, Robert had received correspondence from Le Mirage outlining the support given by them to the school. The PTA acknowledged the significant donations given by Le Mirage over the last 15 years and a full discussion was held on various aspects of maintaining uniformity of appearance and quality etc of uniforms particularly in regard to blazer badges (embroidered v loose) and Dalziel tartan products.

AGM – The PTA AGM has traditionally been held in March. However, this year, it is proposed to hold the AGM in May. This will allow the committee time to carry out their new roles and also provide continuity throughout the academic year. This was accepted by the meeting. Robert will contact the music department to arrange entertainment for the AGM.

Spring Concert – Following the success of last year's trial of offering tea and coffee at the interval of the Spring Concert, the committee was proposing to repeat the venture. This year's concert is on Monday 25 March 2013 and volunteers are required to help on the night.

The committee also proposed holding a raffle on the evening – prizes to be drawn at the interval and announced at the start of the second half and collected at the end of the night. The meeting approved this also.

A list for volunteers will be available at the end of this meeting and a box for donations of raffle prizes will be at the next meeting.

Fundraising –

Each term now has a PTA fundraising event:

- Teas & coffees at school show in October
- Christmas raffle
- Teas & coffees at Spring concert in March
- Quiz night in June

The quiz night in 2012 made a profit of approx. £280 although the turnout was disappointing. All parents are encouraged to come along to this informal social evening – no quiz experience necessary. Bring along a team or join with others on the night to make a team. Ways to encourage more people to come along will be discussed at the March PTA meeting.

At Dalziel, we are fortunate to have great sports facilities at Dalziel Park which is maintained by the War Memorial Trust. The committee considered exploring a joint fundraising event with the War Memorial Trust to see what assistance the PTA can give to the Trust, particularly with the 100th anniversary of the start of WW1 in 2014. A representative of the Trust will be invited along to the PTA to explain what the Trust does, how it is funded, what facilities are available etc.

Next Meeting - Monday 11 March 2013. Liz thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.