



DALZIEL HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT COUNCIL

Chairperson: - Mrs Deborah King

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 1 September 2016
at 7.00 pm in the School Conference Room

Present:

Robert Birch	-	Head Teacher
Jennifer Di Mambro	-	Depute Head Teacher
Caroline Bleach	-	Depute Head Teacher
Jaclyn Martin	-	Depute Head Teacher
Deborah King	-	Parent Member
Margery Lilly	-	Parent Member
Irene McKenna	-	Parent Member
Simon Jessney	-	Parent Member
David Forson	-	Parent Member
Graeme Murray	-	Parent Observer

1 APOLOGIES

None

2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on Thursday 12 May 2016 were proposed by D King and seconded by S Jessney and were accepted as a true and accurate record of events.

R Birch advised that an error was printed at 4.1; which should read Sheriff Court instead of High Court.

3 BUSINESS ARISING

D King welcomed J Martin as Teacher Member and G Murray as Parent Observer.

D King asked R Birch to clarify the position regarding support staff and he advised that re-deployment arrangements had not yet been advised by North Lanarkshire Council and support staff had been advised to return to their same school until further advice from authority.

4 RECTOR'S REPORT

4.1 Placing Requests

A discussion took place regarding placing requests and R Birch advised that appeal hearings will be heard next week; there are presently 2 spaces available in S1.

4.2 Staffing

R Birch advised that 2 of our Principal Teachers, Basie Grieve (PT Modern Languages) and Catherine Muir (PT Home Economics) have now gone down to 3 days a week. Jennifer Tait McCully is now job-sharing with Basie Grieve and Sharon McCully has come to the school as job-share PT with Catherine Muir.

R Birch advised that other new staffing is as follows:-

Laura Rodgers, Teacher of RME (permanent)

Megan Lowry, Teacher of Modern Studies (one year)

Dale McGarrity, Geography (Probationer)

Jonathon Cookman, PE (Probationer)

Jean Grassam, Supply Teacher of English (Jennifer Anderson has indicated that she will return from Maternity Leave in the middle of October)

Val Moyes, Teacher of Music (Wednesdays)

Mary Jo O'Donnell, Support for Learning (2 days per week)

R Birch advised that there is presently 1 vacancy in the Maths Department, but all classes are presently being covered within the school. It is hoped that a Permanent Pool position for this vacancy will be advertised.

4.3 SQA Results

R Birch advised that he was delighted with the school's SQA results for 2015/16 and J Di Mambro agreed with the Rector. Fourteen pupils achieved straight 'A's at National 5 level in 4th Year and 6 pupils achieved 5 'A's at Higher level in 5th. Year. A positive discussion took place regarding the 2015/16 SQA results achieved.

4.4 School Show

J Di Mambro advised that rehearsals for the School Show, "The Wiz", are well underway and both the children and staff are working really hard. J Di Mambro stated that a sponsor is required and asked that if any of the members of the Parent Council know of any local business that would be interested in offering sponsorship, to advise her or R Birch.

4.5 End of Term Arrangements

Everyone agreed the standard of the Houses' performances in the Choral Shield again was exceptional as was the preview of the School Show.

The Dalziel Day Out to Blackpool was a great day which was enjoyed by all.

The Annual Prizegiving held in St Mary's Parish Church was a super night celebrating the successes of our pupils.

4.6 NLC Funding

D King asked R Birch if there were any further developments with regards to North Lanarkshire Council funding in respect of the possible upgrade to the Home Economics Department; a matter which has been going on for some time now. R Birch advised that he had communicated with James McKinstry during the summer holidays with regards to previous correspondence and was still awaiting a response. A discussion took place regarding the matter and R Birch agreed to send a further letter to J McKinstry inviting him to come to the school to visit and view the facilities in the Home Economics Department. R Birch advised that the Fire Alarm and Security systems in the school are presently being updated and work should be completed by October. J Di Mambro advised that there is presently a problem with the roof in the Teachers' Base in the Art Department (a wasps' nest) and action is being taken to solve this. J Di Mambro reiterated that classes are not being affected in any way.

4.7 Consortium Arrangements

J Martin initiated the discussion with regards to Consortium arrangements. She advised that there has been a few initial problems, however, 34 pupils in the school are currently benefiting from the consortium arrangements and hopefully the arrangements will improve through time. J Martin advised that 22 children attend classes in other secondary schools and 12 children attend college courses. R Birch advised that NLC is paying for the taxi transport required.

J Martin also advised that 22 children from other secondary schools are presently being accommodated in classes in Dalziel.

4.8 New Timings for School Day

R Birch advised that the new timings for the school day has been implemented since the start of term with everything moved back 5 minutes from previous timings.

4.9 Elections

R Birch advised that the elections for School Captain and Vice-Captain have now taken place with Emma Knox being voted School Captain and Dayna Mathie voted as Vice-Captain. R Birch advised that House elections will take place tomorrow, Friday 2 September.

5 SELF EVALUATION AND IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

J Martin advised that there have been significant changes this year to the school's approach to Self-Evaluation and the School Improvement Plan for 2016/17. A whole School focus and approach had been taken with involvement from all teaching staff and contributions from all departments. J Martin advised that departments have written individual Departmental Plans engaging with the self-evaluation process HGIOS4 to support all learners. J Martin distributed copies of the School's Improvement Plan, Operational Overview and R Birch advised that he would welcome comments at the next meeting of the Parent Council.

6 EIS WORK TO RULE

R Birch advised that the teaching union, the EIS, has undertaken a limited 'work to rule', with some matters as part of a campaign regarding teacher workload. This is mainly targeted at work undertaken for the SQA and R Birch advised that he will keep the Parent Council posted with any developments.

7 POSITIVE DESTINATIONS

J Martin distributed copies of the document, SLDR14/15 and presented the findings to the Council. A discussion took place regarding the Leavers' Destinations information from Skills Development Scotland and the feedback from the Council was that the information analysed was extremely positive for Dalziel High School leavers. J Martin commented that pupils from the school going to higher education had increased over 5 years to 61.2% of leavers in 2014/25

8 TREASURER'S REPORT

There was no change to report.

9 CORRESPONDENCE

None.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

D King advised that, due to work commitments, the Clerk to the Parent Council, had resigned. Any interested party, should contact D King.

R Birch advised that the St Andrew's Hospice Road Race for 5th and 6th years will be held on Sunday 18 September.

D King thanked everyone for attending and brought the meeting to a close.