

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE PARENT COUNCIL OF THE JAMES YOUNG HIGH  
SCHOOL  
ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2017**

In Attendance: Donald Morrison, Eric Lumsden, Vicky Walker, James Lumsden, Dean Moore, Des Urquhart, Tricia Gallagher, Wendy Fraser, Sarah Henley, Keith Hill, Ruth McMaster, Lynne Mahood, Lynn Taylor, Karen Faulkner, Andrea Dalziell, Elaine Ballantyne, Gillian Aizens, Lynda Brown, Mike Paterson, Louise Elder, Laura Dewar

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

This Meeting immediately followed the Parent Forum Meeting at which the parent attendees were elected as the Parent Council for the 2017/2018 Session of the James Young High School Parent Council. Introductions had been made at the Parent Forum Meeting and Gillian welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Parent Council for this Session

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous Parent Council Meeting were proposed by Sarah Henley and seconded by Mike Paterson and were approved.

**HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT**

The Head Teacher report on the school achievements for the Session 2016/2017 and provided an update on the initial analysis of the SQA Qualifications which had been achieved in the previous Session. These show a continuing good rate of success with improvements in some areas and the Acting Head Teacher confirmed there was still work to be done and improvements to be aimed for and achieved. The school is also particularly proud of the breadth of awards which candidates are achieving, including college courses, Duke of Edinburgh Awards, personal development qualifications, Open University and through the virtual campus. It was stressed that, for University applications, Universities were now looking for a breadth of experience and not just formal qualifications. The Acting Head Teacher went on to discuss the school priorities for the year which include closing the attainment gap between economic groups of pupils, raising attainment for all, improving well-being and improving employability skills and also sustained positive school leaver destinations. The school is also reviewing

areas which can be improved in well-being and especially where mental health can be improved.

An overview of the Pupil Equity Fund was provided. The Scottish Government are providing £87,000 of funding to the school and it is proposed to use these to employ a family worker and a pupil equity champion. Resources will also be provided to increase literacy, numeracy and health and well-being, learning and teaching, to improve school attendance and reduce school exclusions and to ensure pupils can properly participate and are engaged at school.

Miss Gallagher then went on to discuss various staff changes which had occurred over the summer.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Lynda Brown was stepping down as Treasurer as her child had now left the school. Lynda gave a brief job specification for the job. Any work really is involved after a fund-raising event.

### **FUNDRAISERS' REPORT**

Vicky reported that her team was now quite depleted as a number of the main members had left the school and she definitely needs new members to help her. A description of the fundraising events was given and a couple of Parent Council members indicated they would be able to help with various matters.

### **S1 TRANSITION**

Sarah Henley advised she has set up an S1 Facebook page and this has 100 followers. A number of questions had been asked on the Facebook page which were not covered in the Handbook and Sarah will liaise with the school to help revise the Handbook to address common questions. The school were keen to stress that they encourage parents to approach the school directly as that is one of the ways that they build links directly with parents and it was agreed that a frequently asked question leaflet would be helpful. It was agreed that the Facebook group was a positive development and the school were happy to report the results of the S1 survey that 97% felt happy after the transition, 98% felt they had settled in well, 98% felt safe at school and 92% knew who to contact if they had concerns. A larger than normal group of S1s went through the enhanced transition programme. The new school captains, James Lumsden and Dean Moore, had earlier been introduced and updated the Parent Council on the role of the S6s in helping S1s settle in.

### **LITERACY GARDEN**

This is still an ongoing project.

### **NATIONAL ISSUES**

Eric provided an overview of the national exam results and changes which are happening at National 4 and the consultations which are ongoing.

### **OFFICE BEARERS FOR THE CURRENT SESSION**

Gillian Aiden will continue as Chair, having been proposed by Mike Paterson and seconded by Eric Lumsden. The Vice-Chair is Mike Paterson, have been proposed by Eric Lumsden and seconded by Lynne Mahood. The Clerk is Eric Lumsden, having been proposed by Louise Bremner and seconded by Mike Paterson. Vicky Walker was appointed as the Fundraiser Organiser and the Treasurer is still to be appointed.

### **TOPICS FOR THE FUTURE**

Various topics were proposed for future meetings, including health and well-being, addresses from principal teachers, outdoor learning, positive destinations and developing young workforce and family learning. At the Meeting, it was noted that there were two families from Bankton Primary School represented, nine from Bellsquarry, none from Dedridge, two from Williamson Primary School and two from Livingston Village Primary School.